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Creation of International CIS Military Formations Urged

PM1108163393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko commentary: "Military Measures Not of our Choice"]

[Excerpts] Guarding the Tajik-Afghan border amounts to guarding the CIS's common border. This is one of the main conclusions drawn by leaders of Russia and four Central Asian countries (Turkmenistan was represented by an observer at the rank of vice premier) who met last Saturday in Moscow. Therefore everybody must concern themselves with the question of order along this border and not just Russia, which is bearing the main responsibility for it. All the more so as there is a legal basis for joint actions—the Treaty on Collective Security. [passage omitted]

The events in Tajikistan, together with the continuing outbreaks in other regions of the former USSR, force us to take a fresh look at, in particular, the text of the Traety on Collective Security, which was signed back on 15 May 1992. This document, which as yet only four of the six countries have ratified—and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet did this literally in the past few days—provides that in the event of a threat to the member states' security joint political consultations be held with the aim of coordinating their positions and taking measures to remove the threat. But experience shows us that a crisis often requires specific actions based on force which are capable of halting the aggressor and defending the injured party. However, the treaty says nothing about forming international CIS military formations, along the lines, for example, of the UN "blue helmets." But it should.

ITAR-TASS Reviews 12 Aug Press

LD1208083593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0743 GMT 12 Aug 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 12 ITAR-TASS—The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper front-pages an article entitled "The Kremlin Continues a Secret Gamble". According to the newspaper, "secret service officers are in jitters, waiting for some changes. Staffers from the president's office were urgently summoned from their annual leaves".

The newspaper, referring to the public relations centre of the Russian Interior Ministry, reports that Interior Minister Viktor Yerin went on an annual leave. His duties are performed by his first deputy Yevgeniy Abramov.

The newspaper's correspondent Vitaliy Marsov talked with the Russian security council secretary, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who was invited to this post by President Boris Yeltsin two months ago and who suddenly resigned a few days ago.

"The air marshal and the former commander-in-chief of the allied armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States evidently realized after the two months that the president needs from him, above all, political loyalty rather than efficiency, while the security council is nothing but the president's office designed to organise Yeltsin's meetings with top executives of 'specific ministries' and not to draft a single concept for national security and coordination of its implementation," the newspaper writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA speculates that the president was probably shown compromising documents against Shaposhnikov, and the security council secretary "fell victim of another intrigue".

The government newspaper ROSSIISKIYE VESTI, commenting on the tour by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy of several central Russian regions, notes: "one can develop an impression that the vice-president is drumming up support in localities for future actions".

The TRUD newspaper features an interview with Arkadiy Volsky, head of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. Asked to express his attitude to the present authorities, Volsky said that "they are weak in all respects".

Speaking about the government's new economic programme, Volsky noted that Professor Yevgeniy Yasin, a top executive of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, actively participated in its drafting.

"Our positions on pulling the Russian economy out of the crisis basically coincide with the government's proposals," Volsky said.

The same newspaper notes that August probably witnessed the greatest activities of workers in the struggle for their social interests this year. No sooner had rallies of workers from munitions factories ended, miners in the Rostov region went on a warning strike.

They were backed by miners in the Kuznetsk coal basin. Their job action was followed by a strike in the maritime territory. The newspaper reminds its readers that today is all-Russian peasants protection day.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries an interview with Natalya Aleksandrovna Romanova, a great-great-granddaughter of Russian Tsar Nicholas I, who lives in Moscow.

The neswspzaper writes that she is the last scion of the Romanov imperial house, living in Russia. The newspaper regrets that nearly nobody knows about her in her homeland.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper prints dispatches from "Flash Points" in the former Soviet Union. In the newspaper's opinion, "nobody wants to fight in Abkhazia, however, nobody leaves combat positions".

The newspaper notes that Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh defence committee, said in an interview given to the Russian-Armenian information centre two days ago that Nagorno-Karabakh observes armistice conditions and conducts no combat operations. The Karabakh army refuted information about an intention by Armenian self-defence forces to capture the Azeri district centre of Fizuli.

The newspaper also notes that while statesmen from North Ossetia and Ingushetia argue at negotiations, people die in armed clashes in their respective republics.

Ukraine's Kuchma in Moscow for Talks on Oil Supplies, Debt

Meets With Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin

LD1108160493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 11 Aug 93

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and the members of the Ukrainian government delegation accompanying him today arrived on a working visit in the capital of the Russian Federation. The aim of this visit is to meet with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, and other Russian Federation leaders on issues of oil supplies to Ukraine in the second half of 1993, payments, and Ukraine's debt for Russian oil supplies. This debt currently amounts to almost 1 trillion karbovantsi.

The head of the Ukrainian Government was received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin took part in the meeting.

Protocol Signed on Investment Issues

LD1108153393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1417 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—It is envisaged in the protocol signed today as the result of a working meeting between the heads of the Russian and Ukrainian governments that Ukraine will enlist the production potential of state enterprises and organizations with various forms of property to invest in the west Siberian oil and gas complex through the joint-stock company "Ukrsibneftegazkholding." The Russian side undertakes to create conditions for mutually advantageous investment, having entrusted the coordination of the work to the joint-stock company "Tyumenneftegaz." Russia will help to protect the investments of the Ukrainian enterprises and organizations in the joint development of the oil and gas deposits of west Siberia.

The other points of the protocol include a decision concerning the processing of Russian oil at Ukrainian oil refineries in Lisichansk, Kherson, and Odessa, with the subsequent sale of petroleum products in Russia; the transit of Russian tankers along the territorial rivers and waters of Ukraine to West Europe and the Adriatic; and the readiness of Ukraine to discuss the issue of a long-term lease to Russia of a number of gasoline depots in areas bordering on Russia.

It was decided that Ukraine will pay for the delivered oil and gas at foreign trade prices in hard currency at the current rate on the 15th of each month.

Stresses 'Mutual Understanding' With Chernomyrdin

LD1108174993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Video report from Moscow, including recordings of remarks of Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Chernomyrdin—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ukraine Prime Minister Vladimir Kuchma held talks in Moscow today. Following a meeting with Boris Yeltsin, he reached agreement with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on the conditions on which Russian oil and gas will be supplied to Ukraine. Ukraine will invest in the west Siberian oil and gas complex, involving enterprises from various ownership sectors in this venture. Among the decisions that have been adopted are accords on refining Russian oil in Ukrainian refineries and on the transit of Russian tankers along Ukrainian waterways.

At the start of the talks this was the picture: The prices payable for the Russian raw material have gone up several hundred-fold over the past year, while the volume of supplies to Ukraine declined by 30 percent, and Kiev came to owe Moscow approximately 900 billion rubles [R] for the fuel received. It was also agreed today to activate the credit of R250 billion which Ukraine has already received.

[Kuchma] The main thing is that we have reached a mutual understanding that everything has to be paid for, of course. Second, Russian oil companies and Ukrainian enterprises have a large common ground now and are able to put this to mutual advantage. In the first place, this concerns our oil refineries. It is no secret that very many of them are concentrated in Ukraine. They served the entire complex of the former Soviet Union. That is why we have made a clear and precise decision to follow a path of floating these enterprises. We have now found a path to follow. The main thing, of course, is that today we agreed that the credit signed with Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] in June should be put to use—it is R250 billion.

[Chernomyrdin] And now we must think of our tomorrow, the future issues of our mechanism of interaction, between our own and Ukrainian enterprises. I think that one of the main issues we discussed today is how to create joint property, and I think that here we have a case where we have mutual understanding, and we will succeed in this, too, so that this property starts to work and earn. The main thing is that today we have prepared a number of issues to be examined at the presidential level. This pertains also to the issue of nuclear fuel, a range of other issues, in particular machine building, aircraft building, there was the issue of the Black Sea Fleet which we have discussed—it is a single complex, not to be divided up now; no single question can be examined separately from the rest.

[Announcer] As for the forthcoming meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, it is not yet clear when it can take place. This was stated through INTERFAX by Anatoliy Zlenko, the Ukrainian foreign minister.

Holds Press Conference With Chernomyrdin

LD1108220893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Kuchma of Ukraine wound up his one day working visit to Moscow having met with Russia's Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and President Yeltsin. The two government delegations signed a joint protocol after their talks, which centered on the crucial issue of Russian fuel supplies to Ukraine and the latter's indebtedness to the fuel suppliers.

Speaking at a briefing for journalists after their talks both prime ministers said they had reached understanding. Prime Minister Kuchma said in particular that the Russia gas and oil complex and Ukrainian oil refining enterprises could well cooperate, and added that in his opinion Ukraine's oil refineries, which used to service the former USSR's petroleum industry, should be converted into joint stock companies. This work can be started with the Lisichansk giant oil refinery, Prime Minister Kuchma said. Ukraine's gas processing potential is also great, the Ukrainian prime minister went on, since Ukraine possesses numerous and productive petrochemical and chemical enterprises. The Ukrainian prime minister admitted that Ukraine had had to ask Russia to give it a credit of around 250 billion Russia rubles and that the Russian Government had voiced its support for this request.

Economic Agreement Drafted With Belarus, Ukraine

LD1108215393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1921 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—Negotiations at the level of experts between Ukrainian and Russian delegations in connection with the preparation of an agreement between Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine on deepening economic integration ended in Moscow on 10 August. This agreement is called to realize the provisions of a relevant statement by the governments of the three countries signed on 10 July. The Ukrainian delegation included representatives of ministries and the National Bank of Ukraine, in particular, first deputies of the ministers of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry and the Finance Ministry, Viktor Hladush and Mykola Syvulskyy, and Leonid Minin, deputy minister of the Economy Ministry of Ukraine.

The sides achieved an agreement in principle on all issues. In particular, on setting common prices on the territories of all the countries-participants, prices for power sources included. The functioning of the economies of the countries will rest on the national currency and credit systems, with the mutual conversion of currencies, i.e. they all are recognized as equal: It will be possible to exchange karbovantsi for rubles or Belarusian money in any country-participant. Coordinating bodies are to be set up in the person of an interstate committee of the Commonwealth in which every country will have one vote. Decisions on the key issues will be taken through a consensus, on secondary issues—by the majority [of votes]. Interstate arbitration bodies will function as well. The signing of the agreement may possibly take place by the end of this year or the beginning of next, with its further ratification by the parliaments of the three countries.

Draft Envisions Single Customs Zone

WS1108144193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] As became known to a BELINFORM correspondent, [words indistinct] the preparation of a framework for the economic union treaty among Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine is practically finished. The Belarusian delegation, headed by Vice Prime Minister Vladimir Zalamay, came up with a draft treaty at the second round of talks, which are now in progress. The Belarusian Government proposes that a single customs zone and tariffs as well as a single customs control system be established, which would stop illegal exports of goods in third countries. The sides should not impose custom duties, taxes, and tariffs on products manufactured in the countries that participate in the agreement. The Belarusian side is against the regulation of imports and exports of those products on a one-to-one basis and against any limitation of imports and exports, including personal-care items. The proposed draft treaty envisions unified trade policies with third countries and the mutual exchange of information.

Defense Ministry Denies Military Involvement in Tajikistan

LD1208111693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By Sergey Ostanin, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug—Allegations in some mass media that the Russian Air Force was deployed during the operation by Tajik Government forces to neutralize a large opposition group in the Pamir area do not correspond to reality, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry information and press directorate states today. "Russian armed forces, including the Air Force, are not taking part in combat operations in Gorno-Badakhshan," the document states.

It is emphasized that Russian troops on the territory of Tajikistan are not interfering in the republic's internal affairs. "In strict accordance with interstate agreements, they are protecting vital installations there, taking measures to improve the defense of the Tajik-Afghan border,

and ensuring the safety of the Russian-speaking population resident in the region," the statement notes.

'Immediate Start' to Talks in Tajikistan Urged

PM1108160193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Feliks Babitskiy article: "Russia and Tajikistan: Unite, Not Split Up"]

[Text] As the days go by Russia is being drawn deeper and deeper into the internal Tajik armed conflict. The expression "a second Afghanistan" is constantly being bandied about in newspaper pages. But the president and the Supreme Soviet it seems, who are incapable of agreeing about anything, are blessing the Russian military operations in the Pamirs with the cachet of their authority.

The politicians have their reasons. They view the Tajik opposition as a spreading tide of pan-Islamic fundamentalism on former USSR territory, and a "strong" (albeit bloody) power in the region as a firm barrier across its path. But is their approach the correct one?

Let us begin by saying that Tajik society is currently divided by no means along national or religious lines, but rather according to social-clan criteria. From time immemorial there have been four main clans in Tajikistan, and prior to the revolution and again from the 1930's to the present day these clans have occupied a stable position in the local social hierarchy. Thus, the inhabitants of Leninabad (Khudzhant) have traditionally supplied administrative cadres. The inhabitants of Kurgan-Tyube are peaceful and devout farmers. The inhabitants of Kulyab are peasants who are permanently poverty-stricken because of a shortage of land; they supply hired gunmen for the rulers, mafia groupings, or simply "freelance sharpshooters." Finally, the inhabitants of the Pamirs are involved in transit trade and also form the nation's intellectual elite (which is probably why all the revolutionaries both at the turn of the century and today hail from the Pamirs). The inhabitants of the Pamirs form the bulk of the "democratic" and "Islamic" opposition to the Dushanbe government. The armed opposition is currently being squeezed out by government troops—Kulyab detachments—toward the Pamirs, where it is being blockaded.

If only for this reason we should not overestimate the potential for "Islamic intervention" in the CIS from the Pamirs. The local inhabitants have no time for world revolutions—they just want to survive. Moreover, they cannot really be called Muslims. The inhabitants of the Pamirs are Ishmaelites. This is a radical reforming Muslim sect like the Puritans or the Baptists in Christianity. In the view of orthodox Muslims, the people who live here are "infidel dogs." Not a single mosque has been built in the Pamirs from the time of the caliphate to the present day.

The Russian leadership is proceeding on the basis that the rulers in Dushanbe are reliable guarantors of the local Russian-speaking minority, whereas the united opposition "is thirsting for the blood of infidels." This is certainly not the case. Historically speaking, a characteristic feature of the inhabitants of the Pamirs has been their pro-Russian orientation. To this day they carefully preserve a monument to the Ural Cossacks who defended their right to exist in a similar conflict 100 years ago. Even today local detachments cooperate with Russian border troops. It is only as a result of this cooperation that the border still remains closed—but only just—to drugs smuggling. However, at the same time our border troops are cooperating on the Afghan border with government troops in the struggle against those inhabitants of the Pamirs who are now on the other side and are currently attempting to return with the support of Afghan field commanders—supporters of Hekmatyar. So, as we can see, the local military do not have such a clear-cut political orientation as their chiefs in Moscow. They ally themselves with whoever it is advantageous to forge an alliance with in a given place and at a given time.

All the casualties among our fellow countrymen have either been accidental or resulted from voluntary participation in the hostilities. Observers are noting the ever-increasing number of Russian mercenaries (in particular, military men who have lost their jobs) in the Tajik Government forces. The opposition, however, is directly linking this phenomenon with "Moscow's inclination to support the country's ruling Khudzhant grouping and the allied regime of Islam Karimov in Uzbekistan."

In this situation, of course, Moscow is faced with an extremely unintelligible choice. By continuing to support Dushanbe (and at the present time our leadership is inclining toward this option), Russian diplomacy is contributing to the growth of anti-Russian feelings and the popularity of the Islamic fundamentalists, who are being supported by their kindred spirits in Afghanistan and Iran. However, bearing in mind the economic and political weakness of Russia itself, one fine day the opposition could turn out to be stronger. But this will no longer be the current opposition, which is loyal to our compatriots. Basically, what has already happened in Afghanistan will be exactly repeated here. The best thing, of course, would be to withdraw all our troops from the country together with the Russian-speaking population. But this option is impossible to implement on purely technical grounds. There remains just one option: Make the Russian military presence on Tajik land conditional on an immediate start to talks between the warring sides on forming a government of national unity with subsequent parliamentary elections on a multiparty basis. And one other thing: The Russian side should immediately stop recruiting mercenaries to be sent to the region. There is no other choice, as they say.

Ministry Voices 'Satisfaction' With Geneva Arms Decision

LD1108131993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Moscow regards with great satisfaction a decison taken by the Geneva disarmament conference on Tuesday to start multilateral talks on drafting a verifiable treaty on the all-embracing prohibition of nuclear tests, says a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry circulated here on Wednesday.

The document says that the Russian side is ready for serious talks on the issue as soon as its partners are ready for them. "We believe that we should not lose time in this case," the document stresses.

The moratorium on nuclear explosions announced by Russia and supported by the United States expired on July 1. On July 5, Russian President Boris Yeltsin decided to extend it unilaterally as long as it is observed by other nuclear powers.

Opinion is wide-spread in Russian diplomatic circles that the continuing moratorium has created a favourable situation to start serious talks. Moscow also takes into account the task of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

FIS Press Aide Cited on Woolsey Visit

PM1208090193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Babich and Aleksey Rakcheyev: "CIA: Reports and Elections in Provinces"]

[Text] Recently quite mysterious relations have formed between the CIA and the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS]. In June a correspondent from TIME magazine unexpectedly recognized a guest at a prestigious Washington hotel as Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of the Foreign Intelligence Service. It turned out that the chief Russian knight of the cloak and dagger had come to Washington for talks with CIA Director James Woolsey.

The U.S. press had not had time to gossip to its heart's content about this before a U.S. government aircraft was noticed in St. Petersburg bringing, as it emerged, the aforementioned James Woolsey to Russia. Yesterday Tatyana Samoylis, deputy chief of the Foreign Intelligence Service's press center, told our correspondent that James Woolsey was indeed in Russia 7-10 August and that he had held consultations with the leadership of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service on the "questions of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ecology, and the environment, and the struggle against international terrorism and the drugs business."

Tatyana Samoylis reported also that the CIA is cooperating with the Foreign Intelligence Service on questions of preventing regional conflicts, in particular in former Yugoslavia.

Woolsey's Moscow Trip, Diplomat's Death in Georgia Viewed

MK1208074593 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Mikhail Shchipanov report: "The CIA Chief Could Do It. But What About Our Guys? Top Persons From the Most Secret CIA Frequent This Country As If It Were Their Home"]

[Text] Last year, former CIA director Robert Gates was received in Moscow in an atmosphere of secrecy, and the other day it was his successor, James Woolsey, who came to Russia shrouded in similar mystery on an obviously reciprocal visit, because Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS], dropped in on his colleagues in Washington not so long ago.

In our insecure world, the top spies have a lot to speak about within the permissible limits. Woolsey's visit would have probably remained just a new step in the ascending routine ladder of rapprochement between the CIA and FIS on a number of common viewpoints if an American diplomat, Fred Woodruff, had not been assassinated near Tbilisi. The CIA top man rushed to the Georgian capital in his plane in order to personally accompany the coffin with the diplomat's body to his home country. It was then that everyone began wondering. The working theory is that the victim was a most prominent agent of the U.S. intelligence service. Moreover, he was a new generation spy, who had the honor to tap and comprehend anew the intelligence space of the newly independent states.

Of course, no one in Washington would confirm or deny (officially) Woodruff's relationship to the top echelons of the U.S. intelligence service. The diplomat's background, however, and his service record gives one cause to ponder the subject of the CIA's long arms. He served the Stars and Stripes in many countries and he even had time to work in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

But there is a moral aspect to the story that concerns me most. Some time ago, our authorities started making respectable efforts to bring the bodies of our countrymen who had died overseas back to Russia at the government's expense, sparing their relatives the humiliation of begging for this. But I am not sure that anyone even from among the current top Russian leaders would change the route of his tour in order to pay homage and honor the good name of their colleague. All the more so if this gesture might spark unnecessary rumors.

Army Paper Links Events

PM1108185393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev article: "Washington's Pig Which Crawled Out of the Poke"]

[Text] James Woolsey, director of the U.S. CIA, spent several days in Russia. He met with leaders and experts of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] and Ministry of Security, as officially reported after his departure.

Only quite recently it would have been impossible to even imagine such a thing. But now contacts between the FIS and the CIA are becoming quite natural. Recently, for example, Yevgeniy Primakov, head of Russian foreign intelligence, visited the United States. Therefore there is every reason to consider Woolsey's visit a return visit.

But this is what is remarkable. As is customary in special services, everything was organized so as to keep secret both Woolsey's visit itself and its purposes. Even the press department of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow learned of the visit only from... correspondents of Russian press organs.

But not only this secret, which was concealed rather through inertia, was divulged. A pig which Washington was hiding most carefully unexpectedly crawled out of the poke. It so happened that Woolsey's visit coincided with a tragic occurrence, whose victim was Fred Woodruff, staffer of the Political Section at the U.S. Embassy in Georgia. His vehicle was fired upon by unknown persons, and Woodruff died.

What connection, you might think, can there be between the CIA chief's visit and the death of a diplomat in Tbilisi? At first sight—none. But none other than Woolsey himself came to take Woodruff's remains home. It turned out that a leading CIA staffer was concealed beneath the roof of the U.S. Embassy's Political Section.

Naturally, all this attracted the heightened attention of the foreign mass media, which at once began blowing up the scant facts which had come their way. Germany's DIE WELT pointed out that Woodruff was just one of many CIA staffers working at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi. British newspapers said that back in the spring President Bill Clinton had secretly sanctioned a CIA operation in Georgia designed to support Eduard Shevardnadze's regime. At the same time these newspapers cite information received from representatives of the U.S. Administration.

Reporting this, London's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH remarks that the publication of facts about CIA links with Georgia places Washington in an awkward position. These facts confirm that since the breakup of the Soviet Union U.S. agents have been operating in the states which have been formed on its territory with complete impunity and sometimes even with the blessing of the local authorities.

But all this can come as a surprise only to very naive people. U.S. intelligence services are active not only in Georgia but also in Russia and throughout the territory of the former USSR. At the same time they are now particularly persistent at obtaining information of an economic nature. THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote that a real hunt is now on in Russia for diverse technology, including confidential technology. It is being hunted by brokers who are interested in everything—diagnosis of cancerous diseases, lithium batteries, steel rolling, magnetic welding, ultraviolet sterilizers, etc. Who knows how many agents of special services are concealed in the guise of these businessmen.

U.S. 'Peacemaking Efforts' in Bosnia, Former USSR Viewed

MK1108123093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 3

[Natalya Kalashnikova, Sergey Tsekhmistrenko commentary: "U.S. Policy in 'Hot Spots'; The United States Threaten Serbs With Bombing"]

[Text] The U.S. posture regarding the latest developments in the Balkans indicates not only the fact that military interference by America and its allies is growing more probable, but also that Washington intends to resolve conflicts in "hot spots" independently, without UN sanctions. For example, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated yesterday that bombing around Sarajevo would proceed even over a possible UN veto. A number of Western experts think that U.S. "peacemaking efforts" may extend to some of the former USSR republics where armed clashes are going on at the present time. Washington, according to THE TIMES, is ready to openly lay claims to influence in the region which has traditionally been part of the sphere of Russian national interests. This tendency is in fact beginning to determine the White House's foreign policy strategy.

The signal indicating Washington's more active interest in the former USSR republics was a new appointment for James Collins, former U.S. charge d'affairs [as published] to Russia. In Moscow, he studied Russia's relations with "new independent states," especially her part in settling interethnic conflicts. Starting this week, Collins fills an executive position in a State Department unit for U.S. relations with these states (it is led by Strobe Talbot, special adviser to the secretary of state). Western experts believe that Collins' experience may be used to formulate a new American peacemaking strategy implying stronger influence in ex-USSR republics, Russia's neighbors.

According to certain sources, the White House intends to stop financing the services of permanent UN peacemaking forces, proposing at the same time to nearly double the number of UN rapid deployment forces. It is

assumed that the commanding officers of the American contingent of these forces may, in a number of cases, ignore UN decisions. The United States seems ready to try this tactic out in Bosnia—Washington is ready to start bombing Serb positions around Sarajevo without waiting for UN sanctions.

The United States justifies its plans by the fact that Russia in its turn is conducting military actions in Tajikistan without approval from the world body. Truly, Washington ignores the fact that events in Central Asia are unfolding precisely along the perimeter of Russia's borders, whereas the Balkans, even according to the U.S. Congress, are not part of the sphere of American "vital interests." It is believed in the Russian Foreign Ministry that "there can be no logical connection" at all between the U.S. position toward Bosnia and Russia's position toward Tajikistan.

Foreign Ministry Aide Opposes 'Strong-Arm' Methods in Bosnia

PM1108120093 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 7

[Telephone interview with Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, by Sergey Filatov on 10 August in Moscow; under the rubric "Hot Spots: Yugoslavia": "Carrion Crows: Call to the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] In an interview for PRAVDA, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, stated:

"Events in Yugoslavia itself, in Brussels, and at the Geneva talks show that the situation has reached an extremely dangerous point. The Russian side, which is interested in the effective development of the political settlement process and the speediest attainment of concrete decisions on Bosnia-Herzegovina, is taking active steps to exert a constructive influence both on the conference participants and on other countries involved in settling the Yugoslav crisis.

"The main thing, in our view, is to prevent uncontrolled actions in Bosnia which could become a pretext for strong-arm tactics. Our representatives in Yugoslavia, Geneva, Brussels, Washington, and New York have been given clear instructions to that effect. We support direct, constant contacts on these matters with the UN Secretariat, the cochairmen of the Geneva talks, and the sides involved in the Yugoslav crisis.

"The Russian foreign minister will have personal contacts with the Yugoslav and U.S. leaders in the near future in order once again to convey to them Russia's firm stance in favor of the speediest settlement of the Yugoslav crisis and against reliance on strong-arm tactics."

NATO Branded 'Carrion Crows' Over Bosnia Strike Plan

PM1108115693 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 7

[Report by correspondent Yevgeniy Fadeyev under the rubric "Hot Spots: Yugoslavia": "Carrion Crows"]

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Aug—What experiments the "creators of panhuman values" have carried out on the Serbs, who stand firm amid the ruins of a torn and devastated Yugoslavia! Cruel violence, hundreds of thousands of refugees, unprecedentedly humiliating sanctions.

And now, another Washington-style "measure": retaliatory air strikes against the Serbs in Bosnia. For what? Under what laws? "Our laws, the law of the jungle." What is to serve as pretext for this operation—that is something they should have thought of sooner. Although any moment now, Washington will invent something. There were the "pirate" fishing boats in the Gulf of Tonkin: That was how Vietnam started. Quite recently there was revenge for the supposed offense against President Bush in Iraq. And then there are the barefoot Somalis.

The latest operation is described in fine, elegant terms as a "policy of pacification" ["umirotvoreniye"; can also mean "appeasement"]. At one time, following this policy, Czechoslovakia was sacrificed to Hitler at Munich. Now it is Bosnia's turn. The situation in Europe is not the same as in the days of the cold war: There are a great many conflagrations, big and small. In short, an action in Sarajevo could develop to worldwide proportions in a matter of hours.

Do NATO's great peacemaking minds and strategists think about that?

I myself, your correspondent, having worked in Yugoslavia for some years and seen deaths, executions, tortures, children burned in Orthodox churches in Croatia, and shots fired on weddings and funeral professions in Sarajevo, have some questions.

Against which positions will the carrion crows make their strikes? Serbian positions? But what about bombs falling on the heads of UN subunits—British, French, Canadian? And what if the proud, injured Serbs, defending themselves, decide to open fire on the ground against these Blue Helmets, or take them hostage? Will it then be necessary urgently to send in ground forces and marines to protect the UN forces?

U.S. congressmen shed crocodile tears over the sufferings of the inhabitants of Sarajevo, who are not now receiving humanitarian aid. So is that aid going to arrive instantly when the bombing starts?

And another thing. The NATO warmongers are talking about raids on bridges across the river Drina, that is, on the Bosnia-FRY border. So the second half of the bridges

destroyed will be in Serbia: Does that mean war with that sovereign independent republic? Is that how to build a united Europe? With the simultaneous destruction of Yugoslavia, which is today Europe in miniature. What is that, if not madness? The destruction of the SFRY, the bombing of Bosnia—this is a bell that tolls for all Europe...

And another question, admittedly purely rhetorical. What if the Serbs, our age-old comrades in arms, call on their "Russian brother" for help? After all, in other times of troubles it has been known...

How shameful for our country, how bitter for Russia, which to this day has not said a single firm word, a word that the world would listen to, as in the old days.

Oh Lord, thy ways are mysterious!

Kozyrev Talks With FRY Minister, Bosnian Serb Leader

LD1108180293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1647 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—According to a report received from the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Press Center, a telephone conversation took place today between Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, within the framework of the efforts being made by Russia to overcome the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the surrounding areas. The Russian side expressed serious concern about the difficult situation in Sarajevo, the continuing military actions in other parts of Bosnia, the renewal of the threat of international military involvement in the Bosnian conflict and, as a result of that, the stalling of the Geneva talks process. Andrey Kozyrev stressed the necessity of urgent, convincing steps by the Serbian side toward peace, and the continuation of their constructive participation in the Geneva talks. At the same time, the ministers noted, no doubts should remain that such steps are being taken out of goodwill, and not under pressure of military threats.

A positive line by the Serbian side will give Russia the opportunity to reach agreement in Geneva on raising the issue of lifting the sanctions against the FRY. In addition, Russia is ready to promote the provision of humanitarian aid to the FRY, and a solution of the problems connected with this on the basis of objectivity, and in strict accordance with the decisions of the UN Security Council.

The head of the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry learned of the approach expressed by the Russian minister, and emphasized that he will do everything possible for a solution of the Bosnian problem to be found within the framework of a just and lasting political settlement.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev also had a telephone conversation today with Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, who informed him about the state of affairs at the Geneva talks on settling the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Radovan Karadzic gave the assurance that Serb formations will leave the heights of Bjelasnica and Igman near Sarajevo, which they captured earlier. In this connection, he requested help in the placement of these areas under UN control as soon as possible, and the stationing of peacekeeping forces there.

Andrey Kozyrev and Radovan Karadzic agreed to elaborate a plan of specific steps directed at a radical and all-round normalization of the situation in and around Sarajevo, acting in close contact with the United Nations.

Radovan Karadzic welcomed Russia's participation in the Bosnian settlement, emphasizing that the stepping up of its role will facilitate the process.

Russian Consular Taken Hostage, Freed in Iran

LD1108150093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1429 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has conveyed to the leadership of Iran and to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati personally his gratitude for the actions taken to free Andrey Kiselev, head of the consular section of the Russian Federation Embassy in Iran, ITAR-TASS was told by a representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Andrey Kiselev was taken hostage by a terrorist in Tehran on 10 August. Talks with the terrorist came to nothing. A real threat to the life of the Russian diplomat arose, and a decision was made to use force. As a result of the successful actions taken by the Iranian side Andrey Kiselev was released and the terrorist was killed.

FRG Government Plans Aid for Vladimir Oblast

PM1108154193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Yuriy Shatalov: "Round Vladimir Oblast to Bundestag"]

[Text] Vladimir—The FRG Government has included in its program extensive technical aid for Vladimir Oblast. The credit institute for the restoration of the economy has already begun talks with the European Reconstruction and Development Bank on financing various projects which will be implemented on Vladimir soil with the aid of German firms and companies.

Since May this year German experts have been visiting Vladimir Oblast to analyze the potential of the "Elektropribor" and "Tekhnika" plants, as have specialists from a credit society from Frankfurt. Vladimir has been

visited by a delegation from the FRG bundestag's Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union faction, representatives of the German "KFV" investment bank for development, Goran Segerlund, head of the Moscow office of the European Reconstruction and Development Bank, and other figures in German big business.

As for the Vladimir people, over 200 of the oblast's small and medium business enterprises have already applied to cooperate with German firms and companies.

Saxony To Take Over Former Western Group Facilities

LD1108170793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Korinenko]

[Text] Berlin August 11 TASS—Saxony is the first East German land to take control over facilities, which previously belonged to the Russian Western Group of Forces.

An agreement to the effect was signed by representatives of the land government and German Minister of Finance Theodor Waigel in Berlin today.

Saxony houses almost 150 military settlements and other facilities of the Western Group of Forces. Their overall area is 18,000 hectares, or one per cent of the federal land's territory.

Today's agreement provides for federal control over some 1,500 hectares of the area to accommodate federal institutions. The rest 16,500 hectares will be controlled by the land government.

Russian Fitters Dismantle UK Offshore Gas Rig

PM1108150793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 3

[Pavel Bogomolov report: "On to the Gulf of Mexico Now"]

[Text] London, 9 Aug—"We were wrong to doubt the Russians"—a morning meeting at the headquarters of the London company Hamilton Oil opened with these words of relief. The company fits out oil and gas fields off the east coast of Northern England and Scotland. It turned out that fitters from Russia are doing splendid work both in rough seas and under water. In short, their services should be used more often...

These opinions sound flattering. But had our specialists really wanted to, they could have long since proved their worth on the international market for services in the construction and dismantling of offshore platforms. The only thing is that this market, in the West at any rate, is extremely crowded and virtually closed to even the most capable of outsiders. And it is closed because the rates for these kinds of work are very high. That was why Russian citizens were not allowed in for a long time, while rejections were "larded" with convenient references to the "cold war."

The Stanislav Yudin floating crane (capacity 2,000 tonnes, port of registration Kaliningrad) is now the first to break into the transnational club of "sea aristocrats."

The gas platform that now needs to be dismantled towered over the North Sea 100 km from Britain's shores back in early August. It had seen eight years' service and raw material stocks in the well are depleted. According to the rules here, the facility had to be wound down. That accordingly was what the Stanislav Yudin did. And ahead of schedule—welders in diving gear are now cutting through the last supports on the seabed. "We will now head for the Gulf of Mexico, where we are contracted to erect an oil platform," people on board the ship said.

Border Guards Detain Japanese Fishing Boat

LD1108162693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniya Lents]

[Text] Vladivostok August 11 TASS—Russian border guards detained a Japanese fishing boat, "Tonimi Maru", owned to the fishery association of Hokkaido, not far from the Kunashir Island.

Almoust 500 thousand tonnes of halibut, cod, crabs, octopus and other sea delicacies were found on board Tonimi Maru. The border guards escorted the boat to the Krabovaya Bay (Shikotan Island) and began the investigation into its illegal fishing activity.

Tonimi Maru is the seventh transgressor seized in Russian territorial waters. Numerous Japanese poachers are taking advantage of the possibility to fish, along legitimate fishers who are here in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement between the two countries on fishing for lobster in the Sea of Japan. They know well that Russian border guards and fish inspectors have had no fuel for their ships in months and cannot patrol Russian territorial waters systematically.

Deputy Defense Minister Meets China's Zhang Wannian

LD1108153593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, August 11 (TASS)—First Deputy Defence Minister of the Russian Federation Andrey Kokoshin met here today Colonel-General Zhang Wannian, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China. General Kokoshin told journalists after the meeting that "the Chinese side is interested in cooperating with us. This meets the requirements of our

industry". He particularly noted that cooperation was effected with due account of the security interests of of both states.

Kokoshin said that Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev would pay a visit to China this autumn, in the course of which the sides expect to sign several military documents.

Khasbulatov Discusses Relations With Saudi Ambassador

LD1108161093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov today met with ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Russia 'Abd al-'Aziz Khujah in the Russian parliament building.

According to a parliament press service report, they discussed mutual relations between Saudi Arabia and Russia. During the conversation Ruslan Khasbulatov emphasised the need for building a legislative framework for the development of Russia's cooperation with foreign states.

Experts Discuss Falling Arms Sales, Future Prospects

LD1108174293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1140 GMT on 10 August carries a 30-minute program entitled "Russia and Arms Sales," presented by Aleksandr Levchenko. Levchenko opens the program by stating that no one knows the exact figures for arms sales, be it the number of units, types of armaments, or price per unit. The following specialists and experts take part in the program and give their views and opinions on particular issues: A.V. Temerko, president of the Russian Weapons corporation; A.N. Shulunov, president of the League of Russian Defense Enterprises; G.B. Kochetkov, an expert at the Institute of the United States and Canada; and G.G. Yanpolskiy, deputy chairman of the Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry.

The first issue discussed is that of the need for secrecy. Temerko stresses the need to preserve secrecy with regard to contracts, drawing up of contracts, types of armaments, prices for units, and so on. On the issue of military-technical cooperation, Shulunov stresses the need to provide aftersales maintenance of military equipment.

On the extent to which Russia has been squeezed out of the arms market by its competitors, Yanpolskiy says that a reduction of some 40 percent has been observed in arms sales throughout the world over the past two years. He points out that during the same period of time the United States increased its arms sales by 38 percent and France increased the volume of its arms sales by 46 percent. He goes on to say: "In 1987 we sold arms worth $12 billion. In 1990 we sold arms worth only $6 billion and in 1992 we sold arms worth just $1.3 billion." Levchenko adds that throughout the 1980's and up to the end of the 1990's the Soviet Union sold and handed over free of charge various armaments worth $120 billion. He says: "The output of our military-technical complex was exported to 55 countries." He then provides the following examples: India—$18.5 billion; Iraq—$13.6 billion; Syria—$12.6 billion; Czechoslovakia—$10.6 billion; Poland—$6.6 billion; Afghanistan—$6.6 billion; Angola—$6.2 billion; the DPRK—$6.1 billion; Libya—$6 billion; the GDR—$6 billion. The major proportion of arms was supplied on favorable terms and credits, and with a rare exception they were not repaid.

By joining the UN embargo on arms to Iraq and Libya, he continues, Moscow has lost millions of dollars, while the embargo has not affected the positions of France, Great Britain, and the United States on the arms market. Temerko agrees that, probably at the time the decision to support the UN embargo was ethically correct, but this caused us to lose our arms market. Yanpolskiy adds that, while in 1987 we supplied arms worth $12 billion, the payment received was a mere $3-4 billion; large sums are owed even now.

The program goes on to show video of the military fair in Abu Dhabi attended by Defense Minister Grachev, and Kochetkov explains the need to understand the market and marketing. Some of the most sophisticated weapons were presented at the Abu Dhabi fair. He says that these included the S-300 missile antiaircraft complex, the TOR system, the MSTA-S self-propelled howitzer with laser-guided missile, the T-80U tank, and the BTR-3 vehicle. Yanpolskiy then gives his comments on the results of the military fair in Abu Dhabi. He stresses that it showed that Russia is capable of producing armaments and its arms can compete with the weapons produced by leading capitalist countries.

On the lack of a defense concept, Kochetkov explains this by reference to the existence of several groupings that are unwilling to reach a common agreement. In order to sell arms abroad, it is necessary to get permission from nine departments to export arms: the president, the government, the commission for military and technical cooperation, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry for Economics, the Ministry for Industry, the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, the Defense Ministry, and the Security Ministry.

Discussing the type of client needed, Yanpolskiy says that it is morally acceptable to sell arms as long as this does not upset the balance of forces in a region and serves the purpose of defending a particular country. Temerko speaks on the need to look for new markets and reinforce those we already have; he stresses the importance of providing aftersales maintenance of military equipment.

Ambassador to Brunei, Security Council Deputy Appointed

PM1108134993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointment"]

[Text] By an edict of the Russian Federation president, Vitaliy Yakovlevich Vorobyev, Russian Federation ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Federation of Malaysia, has also been appointed Russian Federation ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the State of Brunei Darussalam.

By a directive of the Russian Federation president Vladimir Arsentyevich Rubanov has been appointed deputy secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Addresses Media Conference in Moscow

LD1208093893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at a conference of representatives of state radio and television correspondents and leaders of the mass media in Moscow on 12 August—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed participants in the meeting, esteemed journalists of the mass media: I am as always glad to meet you because I regard your responsible, courageous, and very necessary work very highly.

I believe that a good tradition has grown up in our dealings with each other. We strive to be frank, and I think that has been made abundantly clear today, both in the questions raised by journalists and in the answers which the president gives. It is good that we are following this rule today. I like the critical mood which prevails in this hall.

There are truly many problems, both for the media and for Russia, and in recent weeks they have become even more acute. Another peak in political tension arrived at the end of July and the beginning of August. Measures to discredit and destroy not only executive but also representative bodies of power, well planned and coordinated by a section of the Supreme Soviet leadership, are in full swing. Basically, the aims of the second congress of the so-called National Salvation Front—to abolish the post of president and involve legislators in the destruction of reforms—are being implemented via the country's supreme legislative body.

Take the latest Supreme Soviet decisions. You have spoken about some of them here. Almost all of them are a challenge to the president, a challenge to the people's wishes as expressed in the referendum. Furthermore, as soon as things seem to be settling down, decisions are immediately made in certain areas of politics and the economy which disorganize all this work.

Why are certain decrees and directives not working? Let me mention a few decisions by the Supreme Soviet. Take privatization. Blow after blow is being struck at a pivotal element in reform. Everything is being done to block this process. In spite of the fact that at the referendum the people expressed support for our socio-economic policies—and this is the supreme expression of the people's will—the Supreme Soviet decided to hold up privatization.

Privatization which has been under way for two years now, and it is not going badly, it has to be said. Millions of citizens have already invested their money in various enterprises and investment funds. Even more people are preparing to do this, after weighing up the options. They are seeking the best alternative for them. Auctions are actively under way. Shares in enterprises are being floated in a dynamic way. For all its complexity, privatization is gathering pace.

But what conclusion does the Supreme Soviet draw? At all costs it wants to block and disorganize it, ignoring the interests of citizens and enterprises, ignoring Russia's national interests. First they suspend one presidential decree, then another. The attack on [Deputy Prime Minister] Chubays and the State Property Committee is intensifying.

I have said this before but I will repeat it once again: My position and the position of the government in this matter is firm and immutable. We are not hoping to spoil the progress of privatization. The president and the government are the guarantors of the hand-over of the greater part of state property to citizens, free of charge. And we will continue to act in such a way as to protect these interests. We have already made decisions, following on from the Supreme Soviet, and we think that these decisions should be implemented.

A great blow is also being dealt to Russia's financial system. I mean by this primarily the hyper-deficit budget adopted by the Supreme Soviet. Implementing it would mean the collapse of the Russian monetary system, the destruction of the ruble, the undermining of the entire Russian state structure. Such a budget more or less represents a weapon for the ruin and destruction of Russia. I will not sign this law on the budget under any circumstances. [applause]

I have signed an instruction for the government to be guided by the presidential budget message in its work. [applause]

Recently the Supreme Soviet has sharply increased its pressure on the Council of Ministers. In fact, a course has been taken to split it, to stir up fight between members of the cabinet in order to make it inactive. One has only to recall the recent economic conference which, in fact, came forward with an ultimatum for the government to capitulate. They did all this when the government was doing its utmost to promote the program for continuing the reforms in Russia!

It is understandable why this pressure was needed: To break the government in order to make it retreat, and then to finally deal with the unruly ones. What is the meaning of all these actions? In fact, the forces that have gained the upper hand in the Supreme Soviet are intent on usurping the power of the government and executive power. Now it is a question not of a simple interference in its these or those actions, but, in fact, it is a question of usurping. This puts the country in an extremely dangerous situation.

You do not need to be told how complex and responsible the work of the government is. With the best will in the world neither the Supreme Soviet, nor the presidium, nor the economic conference would be able to do it. In order to rule the country, daily systematic work is

needed, not rallies, turbulent debates by the microphone, or fiery exposures. If anyone thinks all this is left without the attention of the government and the president, they are profoundly mistaken.

Of course, it is not easy to endure all this, but the Council of Ministers has found the strength and courage to preserve its adherence to the course of reform, and this was very nicely stated at the latest expanded sitting of the government. I support the program adopted at this sitting. Moreover, I advise the government to act more firmly, more decisively, and more consistently. The will of citizens expressed at the referendum is the main guiding line in the government's work: the orientation toward reforms, and not toward the Supreme Soviet.

If you think it necessary, attract new, competent, professional, pragmatic people to work more boldly, people who know how to conduct specific affairs.

Another topic being increasingly exploited to destabilize the situation in Russia is the question of corruption. It is no secret to anyone that this evil has deeply penetrated the structures of Russian power, both in the center and in the provinces; it has penetrated executive bodies, legislative administration, and even those who carry briefcases containing these denunciatory documents. [applause] I think you know what powerful resistance people have to overcome in their fight against corruption and at what risk to their lives they are conducting this fight.

Recently, however, it has become even more difficult to wage this struggle. The problem of corruption has become a most important instrument of political struggle. I wish again to state my position: Any person, irrespective of his official position, his political convictions, his present or past services, should be punished and will be punished if his guilt is proven. I make no exceptions for anyone, absolutely not for anyone. [applause]

An investigation has to be carried out, there must be a court case, and the court will arrive at its own verdict. One must not reconcile oneself with a situation in which some people search for facts which would compromise their opponents, while at the same time protecting and even covering up for their own people. At long last a commission has now been set up by a decree of mine. This commission is now dealing precisely with those people for whom cover-ups are embarked upon; it is also dealing with those who are endeavoring to bring to their own side those who are on the wrong side of the law, promising them protection. We cannot put up with all this any longer.

You know the Security Council interdepartmental commission for combating crime sits every week. We have agreed to work without heeding official posts and political convictions, in strict compliance with the law. I will openly admit that in this complex work we need support from the media, not in spreading gossip and denunciations, whatever their sources, but in covering this subject impartially and in a principled way.

Not only is the Supreme Soviet's leadership working against the reforms outside parliament, but it is continuing to destroy the legislative body it runs. Committees and commissions are being purged, supporters of reform are being expelled from them. In fact, a process of repression against dissidents within the whole system of the soviets is under way. The aim is to exterminate everything that is alive and to turn local bodies of representative power into thoughtless executors of the will of the Russian parliament's top leadership.

Those close to the Supreme Soviet's leadership have recently sharply stepped up attacks against me personally. The topic is being hyped up by all possible means. Even [television personality] Bella Kurkova has joined them.

[Unidentified speaker from the floor] Only temporarily, in this hall.

[Yeltsin] Only temporarily?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. [animation in the hall, applause]

The main thing is that she has always loved me but today, all of a sudden [animation in the hall] the subject of the president's health is being hyped up by all possible means, not without the involvement of [Ostankino chief] Bragin. I told him this personally when we met yesterday, so I can repeat it in this hall. There is a program called "Vremechko" [Moscow television program]. I do not know who its author is, but the format is that anyone can phone in and his voice will be heard and he can say, for instance: The nuclear power station is on fire! And the whole of Russia will hear that! In the same way, someone called and said: The president is ill. And immediately all the newspapers took this up and spread the news that the president is ill.

[Unidentified speaker from the floor] Maybe it was Khasbulatov who called? [laughter]

[Yeltsin] They should have taken down the name of the caller, at least, but they did not do anything. I wish they would at least write down who phoned. They don't write it down and one cannot tell from the voice. Maybe it was indeed Khasbulatov who phoned. [applause, laughter]

All this is no news to me of course, in that when attacks against me begin it means that there is an exacerbation of the whole political situation. This kind of method has been used by many and repeatedly, alternately both by the bearded and the bald and by the ones with hair, but so far they have gained nothing.

Now our political opponents have gone so far that they are ready to bring the theme of the health of the country itself to the point of absurdity. One must be very, very

careful in dealing with this issue, and, in general, get ready for a crucial fight. I believe this struggle and crucial fight will take place in September. August must be utilized for the softening-up process, including by the mass media.

Everything I have said shows that the crisis of duarchy in the country has entered a new stage. The price of its intensification has become too high. This is the future of Russia and its people and the destruction of statehood.

I wish to stress that this road is ruinous. Not one branch of power, not one single body will add to its reputation by following it. On the contrary, the people's last confidence will be lost. I wish to ask deputies: Why are you allowing yourselves to be drawn into this struggle? Is it because you want to strengthen the positions of those leaders who have begun implementing the wishes of the National Salvation Front? Is it because you want to bring [Viktor] Anpilov, [Mikhail] Chelnokov, [Ilya] Konstantinov and their ilk to power? Those are the people whose health needs to be checked. [laughter, applause]

I regard those positions as a fatal political mistake and expression of outright contempt for the wishes of the people, which were so unequivocally expressed at the April referendum. No matter what attempts may be made to belittle its results, we obtained an unambiguous answer to the principal question. Society favors the changes. These changes have complicated the life of every citizen—that has to be openly acknowledged. But the majority of the active public voted yes because they have understood and seen that the path we are following is capable of extricating the country from the dead-end. We were supported because they sensed that this is the path which avoids armed struggle, the path of peaceful reforms. We were supported because we have tapped, both within ourselves and within society, new abilities to live in a normal society.

The April choice was a serious, conscious, and difficult choice which people came to after experiencing doubt, even disappointment, during the first year of reform. This choice must be regarded with the greatest possible respect. It is the main factor making for stability in the country.

For all the ebb and flow of the struggle in the highest echelons of power, it remains a struggle confined to the top hierarchy. The bulk of the population have absolutely no wish to participate in political confrontation or to act out a role amounting virtually to that of combat militias for one side or the other. People have other, more important preoccupations and concerns. They have their own private lives, in the best sense of the word, to live. But purposeful and cunning attempts are again being made right now to draw them into the political confrontation. To this end, hysteria is being whipped up in the widest variety of areas. One provocation follows another. The most unlikely rumors and monstrous lies are being circulated. Unfortunately, the country's Supreme Soviet is playing an active role in the organization of this campaign. Anybody would think that it has no other, more worthy things to attend to.

I am saddened by the fact that Vice President Rutskoy is playing an active part in all this. I will refrain from assessing his numerous statements, including those about the president himself, but let me say frankly that I have no intention of replying to abuse with abuse or to lies with lies. I will never adopt or use the style or the overtones of hatred the vice president is using. [applause]

One more thing. Quite a few questions have recently been asked of me: Why is the president silent? Why does he fail to react to the opposition's destructive activities? I will tell you this: Naturally, the position—or rather the situation—was studied very attentively. Various options for resolute action on our part have been prepared. These actions will take place. [applause]

I hope you understand that the elections to the new parliament will be one of the main ways of getting out of this harsh confrontation, engendered by the duality of power. They must take place without fail in the fall of this year. [applause] If parliament fails to decide itself, the president will make its decision himself. [prolonged applause]

Esteemed conference participants, it is unfortunately hardly the case that society is currently always given an adequate picture in newspaper articles and radio and television broadcasts of what is taking place. To put it mildly, but frankly, the mass media do not always come up to the mark. This is in response to your criticism of me. Now I am going to criticize you.

At times, you represent the struggle between the powers which, I repeat, is taking place essentially in the top echelons, virtually as a civil war in which everyone is against everyone else. Let us think about this. Is this really the case? And let us reach conclusions.

I know that the situation, especially the financial situation, is extremely grave for most of the mass media. But let us not forget that this can be explained not only by the economic crisis and inflation, but also by the inevitable flaws in the emergence of press freedom. Yes, prices for newspaper paper have risen over 360-fold compared with 1991. Yes, the distribution of publications often costs more than their production. Yes, the salaries of journalists, especially in the local mass media, are among the lowest in the country. Yes, the material base of most printing houses is outdated and it is hard to import new equipment because of the lack of hard currency.

However, Russia's information area today is significantly larger and more diverse than before. We have in operation about 14,000 mass media entities under a variety of forms of ownership, including over 1,500 television and radio channels and about 400 news agencies. Can one really compare this to the previous inert and formalized system? No, one cannot.

But facts are facts, and the situation is indeed extremely difficult. As a result, the numbers of readers and even viewers are going down. What is more, this is mainly at the expense of socially vulnerable sections of the population.

The press was given backing worth approximately 8 billion rubles this year alone, but subsidies from the federal budget are not solving the problems. It is evident that the solution can be sought in other ways apart from the budget: first, by subsidizing consumers rather than producers; by introducing differentiated taxation of printing enterprises serving the press; by exempting the mass media, with the exception of advertising, commercial, and certain specialized media, from all types of taxation for a certain period; [applause] by privatizing and issuing shares in newspapers, publishing houses, and printing works, with the participation of editors but, of course, while reserving the possibility of their reorientation and other possibilities.

Regarding the Supreme Soviet's decision on amendments to the law on the mass media, I would like to say that I used my right of veto and returned it to the Supreme Soviet unsigned, and I will not sign such a law. [applause]

I wish you success. Thank you. [applause]

Predicts 'Decisive Political Clash' in Sep

LD1208103293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Tamara Ivanova and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today predicted "a decisive political clash in Russia" in September, and said August must be used for an "artillery barrage". He was speaking at a meeting of the mass media leaders in Moscow.

The power crisis in the country has entered a new stage, according to Yeltsin. The price of its deepening has become too high, as the fate of Russia and its people are at stake and the destruction of Russian statehood is looming, he said.

Yeltsin then said that for all the peripeteia of the struggle in the top echelons of power it has only affected the tip of the iceberg. "The bulk of the people are categorically averse to taking part in political confrontation and play the role of "hit groups" for one side or another", he said and added that "deliberate and sophisticated attempts are now being made to draw them into political confrontation".

The president said he was receiving numerous questions about his silence and lack of reaction to destructive actions of the opposition and explained that "the situation has been thoroughly studied lately and different versions of our resolute action were prepared, as for the action, it will not be long in coming".

He said one of the main ways out of the crisis was through the elections to the parliament which must be held this autumn by all means.

Poltoranin Hits Parliament Moves on Media

LD1208084793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0715 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Aug— A conference of representatives of state television and radio correspondents of Russia and heads of mass news media has opened in Moscow. Taking part are Russian President Boris Yeltsin; First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko; head of the Federal Information Center, Mikhail Poltoranin; Press and Information Minister Mikhail Fedotov; heads of state television and radio companies; newspaper chief editors and journalists; politicians and public representatives.

In a brief introductory speech, Mikhail Poltoranin said that the Supreme Soviet is attempting to take possession of the mass news media. The electronic media has become the first victim, and others will follow. In his opinion, this can be resisted with the help of journalistic solidarity and the firm position of the whole range of executive power, from top to bottom.

Valeriy Tolskiy, chairman of the Council of Heads of Regional Television and Radio Companies described the situation that has arisen in state television and radio as critical. He said that the existence of a state broadcasting system is under threat. This would lead to disruption of Russia's united information space and would entail unpredictable political consequences. He stressed that the Supreme Soviet is trying to "monopolize the power of the soviets over the electronic media." [passage omitted]

Journalists Want Poltoranin as Press Minister

LD1208091093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0839 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug—The appeal to the Russian president by Valeriy Tolskiy, chairman of the council of heads of Russian state television and radio companies, that Mikhail Poltoranin be appointed as Russian minister of the press and information was not unexpected for Poltoranin himself, he admitted. In an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said "the president has been offering this post to me for the past month."

He also said that on 1 July he sent a notice to Boris Yeltsin resigning from all the posts, "and the notice is still in Yeltsin's office," he said.

Mikhail Poltoranin admitted that he "experiences pressure" from journalists, and television and radio companies "persuading me that I have to work." "But I am dead tired of the activities of the fifth column both in the

government apparatus and the presidential apparatus." According to Poltoranin, he has not agreed to take the post of minister of the press and information for the time being.

Shaposhnikov Says Resignation 'Strictly Personal Matter'

LD1108145393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1423 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov regards his decision to resign from the post of secretary of the Russian Security Council, of which he informed the Russian president at the end of July, as a strictly personal matter. Today, in an exclusive interview with this ITAR-TASS correspondent, he stressed that his decision should not be seen as "in any way excessive." "There is no force that will keep me in that post," the air marshal also noted.

In accordance with a previous agreement with the Russian president, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov will continue to perform his duties until mid August. He mentioned that he had a conversation with Boris Yeltsin about his new job. The air marshall preferred to say nothing about which particular post was discussed.

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov is 51. He became head of the USSR Defence Ministry in August 1991. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, he took charge of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. This June he was appointed secretary of the Russian Security Council by presidential decree.

Resignation Reasons Examined

PM1108170793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Viktor Litovkin report incorporating remarks by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov; place and date not given: "Marshal Shaposhnikov Also Resigns for Ethical Reasons. But Only His Own"]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov promised to give his first interview as secretary of the Security Council to our newspaper, and kept his word. But when three weeks ago we showed him the material ready for publication, he put it to one side, saying: "Now this has no significance," and took out three small pages of a handwritten text from his safe.

It was his as-yet-unsent letter to the president containing a resignation request.

What induced Marshal Shaposhnikov to do this?

The first reason was the ambiguity of the position in which he found himself. Parliament, as is well known, did not ratify the president's edict on his appointment to his new position. Moreover, two deputies rudely insulted the marshal in public. Shaposhnikov stated that he would not return to the Supreme Soviet's Hall of Sessions until they apologized.

But, although two deputies are not the whole Supreme Soviet, no one even thought of making such a move. Moreover, the president, so it is claimed in Shaposhnikov's entourage, has not received him once since 30 June, and has not said what he should do next and how. This vagueness, in the marshal's words, cannot continue indefinitely. His inner moral principles require a decision to be made.

The second reason was that, in his appointment to the position of secretary of the Security Council, a violation of Russian legislation was committed. According to its norms, servicemen can be reassigned to work in civilian organizations without being dismissed to the reserves only in the capacity of advisers, consultants, and experts, but certainly not to a leading position like the post of Security Council secretary. This situation also has in the final analysis to be brought in line with the law.

And the third reason is that in the draft of the new Constitution, which has already been prepared by the Constitutional Conference, there is no mention of the Security Council and its secretary. What sort of organ is this, where do its functions, rights, and obligations lie? Without a clear legislative elucidation of these questions, Marshal Shaposhnikov considers further work impossible for him.

If it is a technical post for drawing up minutes of the council's sessions and preparing materials for the president, then what is wanted here, in Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's opinion, is a jurist, a lawyer, not a military man. If it is the post of a politician, vested not only with duties but also the rights of monitoring the fulfillment of the president's edicts and the directives of the higher legislative organs in the sphere of Russia's security, such a provision should be stipulated in law by special norms.

The marshal is deeply upset by the slowness and lack of coordination in the actions of the legislative and executive branches, the power ministries, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the attack on the 12th [border guard] detail. Moreover, in Shaposhnikov's words, the minister of security flew from Sochi to Tajikistan, to the Afghan border, only six days after the death of two dozen of his subordinates. Moreover, the minister took this step only under the strongest pressure from the country's leadership.

Shaposhnikov believes that the Security Council and its secretary should be vested with the right in the president's absence and in exceptional circumstances to immediately hold a coordinating conference with the most responsible and competent state officials, to elaborate options for the solution of the problem which has arisen and propose them to the highest official, and, after the adoption of a final decision, to see that they are carried out unconditionally.

That is how they behave in all civilized, self-respecting countries—but not in ours.

And this is on top of the fact that, in the marshal's opinion, the country still has no clear concept of its security, no concept of its interests—economic, foreign policy, internal, federal, military, social, informational, or ecological.... Without this, in his view, it is impossible to build a clear, long-term policy.

Instead of elaborating such a concept, the two branches of power, in the marshal's opinion, have been embroiled in months of unworthy personal and group showdowns. Shaposhnikov believes that participating in all this, willingly or not, is impermissible for himself personally, although, as is known to the editorial office, both sides have time and again proposed that he join one grouping or another and clearly state his position.

"I have one position," the marshal said in conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent, "the interests of Russia, and internal political struggle—one, moreover, employing not entirely respectable methods—is not to the benefit of Russia's esteem."

There is, in my view, one more circumstance—maybe not the main one, rather one of a personal nature—why Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov decided to quit the post of secretary of the Security Council precisely at this moment in time. His wife is an Ossetian. Many of her relations live in the North Caucasus, in the region of interethnic conflict. And given the exacerbation of relations between the two neighboring republics and peoples, the argument is offered heard on the street, and, indeed, in high places: "The Ossetians get away with murder because they have a champion in the Kremlin."

The office of the Security Council secretary is not situated in the Kremlin but next door to it—on Ulitsa Varvarka. Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov has decided to quit. This is his right. However people react to this step of Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's, however they comment on it, you have to admit the obvious—this is the step of a courageous man who has a clear conception of an officer's honor and follows its demands without question.

By no means all politicians possess these qualities today, especially former military men.

And one more idea crops up in connection with the marshal's resignation statement: Big-time politics in our country is too much saturated with group and personal interests for the military to be able to participate in them, used as they are to clarity and preciseness. Any professional, especially of high rank, should stick to what he knows best.

And last of all. The editorial office has no information that President Yeltsin has accepted Marshal Shaposhnikov's resignation from the post of secretary of the Security Council. In my view, nothing irreversible has happened. And in these times the progressive [peredovoy], reformist part of our society should not be left without men of honor and duty like Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

Correspondent Views Resignation

LD1108130193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] We learned on 10 August about the latest resignation from Russia's security structures. This time, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov left his post as leader of the Russian Federation Security Council. I would like to remind you that he has occupied this post for about one month. During this period, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov managed to hold a scientific conference on the topic of security concepts and started carrying out reforms of the Security Council structures. For many people it was very surprising that his activities in this post were confined to these events. My colleague Igor Ambrosov takes up the story.

[Ambrosov] Many of the first reactions to this resignation for some reason went back to the scandal in the Supreme Soviet when Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov was not confirmed in the post to which the president appointed him and the air marshal's subsequent letter to the Supreme Soviet in which he refused to participate in further discussion of his candidacy until he received apologies from a number of deputies who had insulted him. All of this indeed took place, but his conflict with the Supreme Soviet and the lack of any apologies are not reasons to give up a post quite so quickly and unexpectedly. Others like Anatoliy Chubays or Vladimir Shumeyko, who have come into conflict with the Supreme Soviet just as often, have not given up their posts because of this.

It is not in the line taken by the Supreme Soviet regarding the Security Council that one must look for the reason behind Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's resignation, but in the president's attitude toward the Security Council, or to be more precise, in the structure of the presidential system of authority.

At this point I would like to leave Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov in peace and think about the fate of the Security Council. First of all, I would like to recall that when the law on security was signed and adopted, major tasks were allocated to the Security Council. Many analysts said at the time that the scale of the powers given to Security Council was comparable to the powers which previously belonged to the Central Committee of the CPSU Politburo.

Yuriy Skokov, the then secretary of the Security Council, even specifically rejected comparisons between the Security Council and the Central Committee CPSU Politburo in the press, and time has shown that he was correct in saying this. In fact, the Security Council had one set of powers on paper, while in practice, they had different ones. According to the security law, it stood above the

"power ministries," the Foreign Ministry for example, but in practice, things looked very different. Resolutions on security for the president were not prepared by the Security Council, as should have been the case according to the law, but by others.

And if one asks how often all the members of the Security Council meet since it was established just over a year ago, I'm afraid the number could be counted on the fingers of one hand. What is the reason for this uncertainty surrounding the Security Council which could have led to Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's resignation?

INTERFAX reported Shaposhnikov's resignation on 10 August, and on 11 August KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published a long article by Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on Issues of Defense and Security. He believes the country needs a security concept, but that the country is not ready to adopt one because there is no national consensus on the issue of the aims and principles behind creating a Russian state.

Vitaliy Tretyakov, editor-in-chief of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, confirms in an editorial on the front page that the death pangs of the political regime are clearly visible, and that from the bottom to the top there is not a single state institution which is functioning normally and no institution of authority that is exercising its authority, that all branches of authority are being degraded and so on.

Against this background, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's resignation looks like a minor detail, one small drop, but like a drop of water, this single drop reflects all the features of the times Russia is currently living through.

Yeltsin Meets Local Soviet Leaders on Federative Structure

LD1108134893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting was held in the Kremlin today between President of Russia Boris Yeltsin and a group of leaders of oblast and kray soviets of people's deputies. During the conversation there was discussion of problems concerning the federative structure, and special features of mutual relations between krays, oblasts, and republics in the current political situation.

Those attending the meeting discussed political and organizational aspects of the concluding stage of the Constitutional Conference.

This was reported by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Chairs Meeting of Crime Commission

LD1108124193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—The interdepartmental commission for combatting crime and corruption under the Russian Security Council met in the Kremlin here today. It was chaired by President Boris Yeltsin.

As decided by the commission's previous meeting a week ago, the presidential press service reports, it discussed "the state of the struggle against crime in the Russian Federation and measures to enhance its effectiveness". The commission heard reports by Deputy Interior Minister Yevgeniy Abramov and acting Security Minister Nikolay Golushko.

It was established that the efforts of the law enforcement bodies in the first six months of 1993 did not substantially improve the criminogenic situation in the country. In light of this, the president of the Russian Federation has set several tasks before the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Security.

It was decided to continue the discussion of the materials submitted by the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Security at the next meeting of the inter-departmental commission, which will adopt a corresponding decision.

Government Executives' Activities Updated 10 Aug

PM1108102193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed "Executive Branch: Monitoring" feature]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Trips, Sessions**

Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin held a conference with his deputies at which they discussed the results of the enlarged Council of Ministers session held 6 August. The head of the government then held talks with a delegation from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan headed by President Askar Akayev. They discussed a package of economic issues, in particular the problems of this country's relations with states in the ruble zone, and also payments and the allocation of state credit by Russia to Kyrgyzstan.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko held a conference devoted to problems relating to children's foodstuffs at which Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha was also present. In the afternoon Vladimir Shumeyko held a conference on questions of women's participation in enterprise.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov flew to Kustanay, where he intends to meet with directors of enterprises and commercial structures. During the trip he will elaborate a number of measures to stabilize the economy in the region.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets met with representatives of Krasnoyarsk Kray's administration and industry and discussed problems of economic stabilization in the region.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha held a conference on the results of the work of the government commission assessing the effects of the drought in Buryatia and Irkutsk Oblast. During the afternoon the vice premier took part in a session of the commission on carrying out the harvesting work and then worked on a statute regarding the Committee for the Food and Processing Industry.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray flew to the North Caucasus. One of the objectives of his trip is to analyze the situation in the region.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays has returned from leave. He took part in the talks with the delegation from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is on leave.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov left for St. Petersburg. The aim of the vice premier's trip is to resolve issues relating to the implementation of social policy at regional level.

Visits [passage omitted]

CIA Director James Woolsey has arrived in the Russian Federation.

Remarks

Commenting on the decision adopted by parliament to suspend the validity of the Russian Federation president's edict "On Additional Measures To Protect the Right of Russia's Citizens To Participate in Privatization," Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays described it as economically groundless, juridically nonsensical, politically detrimental, and devoid of common sense. In his opinion, this decision "removes the last chance of retaining any confidence in the Supreme Soviet." [passage omitted]

Denial

Russian Finance Minister B. Fedorov's claim in a press release that Russian Vice Premier "A. Zaveryukha is deliberately striving to wreck the state's financial policy and opposes real reforms in agriculture" is entirely without foundation, a statement received by the editorial office from Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha's press secretary says. The difficulties of the agrarian sector, like those of other spheres of the economy, are common knowledge. They are primarily the result of the difficult situation of rural commodity producers, who currently need considerable financial support.

It is hard to explain what prompted B. Fedorov to make such a sharp and groundless accusation against a government colleague. However, judging by the contents and tone of the Russian finance minister's statement, he is the one who is "aiming to split the government," the statement by A. Zaveryukha's press secretary says.

Social Protection

A Department for Disabled People's Affairs has been set up by decree of the Russian Council of Ministers-Government within the structure of the Russian Federation Ministry for Social Protection of the Population with a view to increasing social protection for disabled people and coordinating the activity of social organizations for the disabled. [passage omitted]

Emergencies

According to a report from the Russian Federation State Committee for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and the Elimination of Natural Disasters, the entire disaster area in Buryatia, which has been hit by flooding, has been reconnoitered from the air. The republic's chief of staff for civil defense and emergencies has reported that the situation continues to deteriorate. The water level in the Selenga, Dzhida, and Chita rivers is rising. More than 6,000 homes and 9,000 private plots have been flooded. A total of 25,850 hectares of agricultural land, 1,200 km of road, and 50 sheep pens and livestock units are under water. Two people have died. The extent of the damage is being clarified.

Moratorium

Amangeldy Tuleyev, chairman of Kemerovo Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies, has invited local soviets of people's deputies to approve local programs for developing enterprise, declare a moratorium on new local taxes (there are currently 18 such taxes in the oblast), and also assist entrepreneurs by providing tax breaks. An appropriate appeal was adopted on the results of the conference held at the end of last week by the oblast soviet leader and local entrepreneurs. A. Tuleyev's appeal stresses that this incursion has been made into the sphere of the executive branch's activity because it is working inefficiently.

11 Aug

PM1208102793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed "Executive Branch: Monitoring" feature]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Sittings, Trips**

Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin, as always on Tuesdays, met with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. A discussion took place on a wide range of issues concerning the results of the enlarged Council of Ministers sitting, the upcoming conference of leaders of republics within the Russian Federation in Petrozavodsk, and other problems.

During the day, the Russian premier visited the "Lyuberetskiye Kovry" Joint-Stock Company. As Vladimir Zornikov, general director of this joint-stock company,

told ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent, the theme of the discussion with the premier was to be the implementation of the "Russian Carpets" program, which will make it possible to provide sizable revenue to the budget.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko's day was spent resolving current work issues.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov received an American delegation. Questions of economic interrelations and the possibility of participating in new mutually advantageous economic projects were discussed at the meeting.

The draft State Defense Order for 1994 was the theme of a conference held by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets. During the afternoon the first vice premier chaired a sitting of the Commission for Operational Questions. The sitting discussed problems of standardization in Russia and the socioeconomic situation in Maritime Kray.

Vice Premiers Boris Fedorov and Anatoliy Chubays took part in the sitting.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray is on a trip to the Caucasus, tackling the problems of the North Caucasus region.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov took part in a conference in the Supreme Soviet on questions of the social protection of servicemen. Then Yuriy Yarov conducted a sitting of the working group for the shipment of goods into regions of the Extreme North. The sitting took place with the participation of the State Committee for the Social and Economic Development of the North.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha begins a two-day trip to Tver Oblast. The aim of the trip is to learn about the development of flax growing in the oblast.

Conferences

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's departure for Petrozavodsk is scheduled for today. A conference involving leaders of republics within the Russian Federation and representatives of eight regional associations of Russia will take place in Petrozavodsk.

In the president's words, he has "a prescription for reconciling the republics with the other Federation components."

Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian president's administration, intends to take part in a conference to discuss problems linked with the socioeconomic development of Mineralnyye Vody in the Caucasus as a specially protected ecological resort area.

Agreements

Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov and Kazakhstan's Premier Sergey Tereshchenko signed a protocol on trade and economic cooperation for 1993-1994. Kazakhstan acknowledged its state debt to Russia and pledged to repay it in August-September 1993. The sides also agreed to set up a transnational company on the basis of the Kustanay Diesel Plant. The protocol was signed during the Russian first vice premier's visit to Kustanay Monday.

In the State of Emergency Zone

A conference in which Russian Federation Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin and Acting Head of Administration Yuriy Shatalin took part has been held in Vladikavkaz. Questions of the work of law-enforcement organs in the state of emergency zone were discussed.

Decision in Preparation

"In the very near future the government intends to adopt a decree containing additional measures on the observance of citizens' rights during privatization," First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko announced. The Supreme Soviet suspended the validity of this edict last week and the document was referred to the Constitutional Court for a verification of its compliance with the country's fundamental law. [passage omitted]

Denials

The press service of the "Strategiya" Center, which is headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, has denied a report by RTV's "Parliament" program that the former Russian Federation state secretary is constructing a dacha in the village of Razdory near Moscow. The press service statement evaluates this report as "a blatant falsification and a filthy rumor aimed at discrediting eminent Russian public and state figures." The press service asserts that G. Burbulis has does not have a dacha-style "hideaway" either "with a copper, tiled, or straw roof." [passage omitted]

Moscow

At a Moscow Government sitting, the question of providing Muscovites with bread and flour products was discussed. Discussion centered on the difficult situation surrounding bakeries, which need retooling. The Moscow Government sitting also discussed an "ecological" question—namely, collecting and recycling secondary resources and food waste. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Presidium Meets 12 Aug

LD1208085193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] A session of the Russian Council of Ministers Presidium has opened in Moscow, says ITAR-TASS. The agenda includes five issues, concerning the draft state afforestation program, the introduction of changes and supplements to the law on peasant farm holdings, draft laws on agricultural cooperatives and consumer cooperative issues. The issue of compensating the population for the loss of value of their deposits in savings banks when free market prices were introduced is also to be examined.

Yarov Admits Social Policy Mistakes, Blames Gaydar Cabinet

PM1108125993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Oleg Odnokolenko report: "Government Admits Mistakes"]

[Text] The level of frankness at this event can be described as sensational. Until quite recently only the opposition could afford to make such assessments of the situation in the economy in general and in the social sphere in particular. This was done this time by Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov, who stated that the prevailing situation in the social sphere is "typified by growing tension and a buildup of acute problems which have become deeper and more protracted than forecast." He went on to list these "problems"—a reduction in the living standard of most of the population, an increase in the level of hidden unemployment, a decline in the incentives for labor, unjustifiably sharp differences in pay, a deterioration in the demographic situation, the destruction of the health care system, and so forth. Yuriy Yarov admitted that the serious mistakes made in implementing social policy have been the main cause of the crisis in the social sphere and of the recession.

This was probably not a very difficult admission for the speaker to make, since he pinned full responsibility for the current state of the economy on former leaders. In particular, on the economic strategy pursued by the Yegor Gaydar cabinet—a body from which it is now advantageous to distance yourself and whose popularity is falling in proportion to the decline in living standards.

The vice premier said that it was particularly important to ensure a level of income for the majority of Russia's citizens that does not fall below minimum living standards, stressing the special role of the Russian Federation law on the minimum wage that has been elaborated by the government. Turning to policy in the pay sphere, Yuriy Yarov justified the need to step up the state's role in regulating pay, and the need to move toward a tougher system for taxing personal income. The conference also discussed identical fixed compensation for all pensioners, and the employment problem. In Vice Premier Yarov's opinion, structural changes in the economy are bringing about a need to develop sectoral programs to promote employment. These should primarily "envisage measures to preserve jobs."

It is as yet hard to say whether the government's new economic statements are more a question of politics or actual mistaken economics. But it is already obvious that they differ in a number of fundamental respects from the "market ideas" which have undoubtedly predominated in society and had until quite recently been considered unimpeachable. What next—a comeback for perestroyka?... Incidentally, the nature of these actions depends exclusively on the professionalism of members of the Cabinet of Ministers. But, whatever the case, hardly anyone would now claim that the economic transformations can be painlessly implemented in the interests of 5 percent of the population, ignoring the interests of all the rest.

Rumyantsev on Remaining Differences in Constitution Drafts

PM1108141393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Article by Oleg Rumyantsev, secretary of the Constitutional Commission, under "Viewpoint" rubric: "Constitutional Field Is No Place for a Battle"]

[Text] On 31 July the components of the Russian Federation were sent the latest Constitutional Commission-prepared version of the draft of the Fundamental Law to work on.

The attention being paid to the Constitutional Commission's draft (it is still being called the "official" one) should by no means be attributed to the ambitions or whimsy of the deputies. It fully corresponds to the constitutional process which is in progress. On 20 July the Supreme Soviet adopted a decree instructing the Constitutional Commission, in line with its previous decree, to continue working on the draft—whose basic provisions were approved by the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies—with consideration for the draft Fundamental Law presented by the Russian president, and also the observations and proposals from components of the Federation.

Let us note that the natural rapprochement of the two drafts is in progress. The Constitutional Commission's text, which has undergone much coordination, remains at the heart of our quest. Proposals from Federation components, materials from the Constitutional Conference, and observations from state organs and all-Russia public associations have been used. Let us note that even the original "presidential" version, which many found unacceptable, was, not without the help of representatives of our commission and the regions, substantially changed at the conference in the Kremlin to be more in line with the provisions of the official draft.

The substantive differences that remain between the two drafts amount to the following:

—on questions of federalism: the constitutional status of components of the Federation and the problem of their equality; the powers of the chambers of the federal parliament and their equality; the procedure for forming the Soviet of the Federation; the principles of the budget process and the procedure for allocating resources for programs and regions;

—on the form of rule: the correlation between the head of state and the federal executive; the president's right to dissolve the parliament; the mechanism of the government's accountability;

—on human rights: the constitutional restrictions on the right to private ownership of land and natural resources;

—on the problem of the civil society: the existence of a separate section entitled "Civil Society" and constitutional guarantees of the unrestricted development of its institutions;

—on the fundemantals of the constitutional system: the Russian Federation's place in the union [soyuz] of states and the world community;

—on the concluding provisions: the procedure for the full review or adoption of a new Constitution; the role of the Constitutional Conference.

Let us also add to the list the volume of the Constitution and the role of federal constitutional laws in the legislation system.

But if we are talking about political problems, these do not arise in the content sphere, but are rooted in the following. First and foremost, recollections of the extremely controversial illegal and undemocratic provisions of the original "presidential" version are fresh in people's minds. This cannot fail to generate a certain guardedness toward elaborations from the Constitutional Conference participants.

Second, some people are still cherishing the hope of making the Constitution a field of their own (or their party's) strategic political success. Such an aspiration generates understandable rejection both among some of the centrists and the opposition.

Finally, the consultative organ under the president's authority is for some reason considered to be the only legitimate and lawful source of constitutional initiative. While the role of insignificant subordinates and observers has been prepared for the organs of power, and also for the political forces of a somewhat different trend. There is no other word for this approach than erroneous.

There is still time to change the course of the constitutional process and eliminate its dichotomous, politicized nature. With this aim in mind, it would be desirable to hear the sober voice of the Russian regions. The multilateral forum which is meeting in September to clarify and coordinate differences of opinion on constitutional reform can play its role. The result of all this should be the joint preparation of a really coordinated draft (maybe with options on individual issues), its publication in October, and its submission for examination by the Congress in November of this year.

For my part, I would propose that observations on the drafts and on the procedure for coordinating them should be sent to the Secretariat of the Constitutional Commission, and that permanent official representatives should be appointed for work in our commission, which is due for reorganization.

Zaveryukha, Shumeyko Told About Countryside's Problems

PM1108131793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Nikolay Gorlov report: "Output Level Stabilized Only in Agro-Industrial Sector"]

[Text] The enlarged session of the Russian Federation Government—the grand Council of Ministers—held Friday is just the tip of the iceberg. The heads of administrations who arrived in Moscow for this event had a number of working meetings with Cabinet of Ministers members and tried to resolve their most painful problems.

In particular, a conference of leaders of the Russian Federation's constituent oblasts, krays, and republics attended by First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko and Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha was held the day before the Council of Ministers session. The situation in the country's agro-industrial complex was discussed. If we attempt to summarize the emotional speeches by the local leaders, we end up with something like the following picture.

The Russian agro-industrial complex has on the whole successfully weathered the crisis brought about by economic reform. The reorganized kolkhozes and sovkhozes, as well as the 250,000 private farms, have adapted to market conditions. The volume of agricultural production has been successfully stabilized at a fairly high level. There are potential growth opportunities which in the very near future will enable us to discontinue food purchases abroad (with the exception of a certain amount of feed grain).

The main problem in the Russian countryside today is money. The credit system and the mechanism for settling accounts are both dreadful. In Aleksandr Zaveryukha's opinion, the government still does not fully understand the specifics of agricultural production. Whereas a ruble in the trade cycle circulates twice a month, in the agro-industrial complex it basically circulates once a year. There are times when a peasant must at all costs buy seeds, fertilizers, equipment, fuels, and lubricants, and he can only pay for these things with the fruit of his subsequent labor. In conditions of high inflation, appropriate credit, subsidy, and payment systems are essential for agricultural produce.

At the present time a paradoxical situation has developed—agricultural enterprises' warehouses, storage facilities, and cold stores are crammed with meat, vegetables, and potatoes which cannot find a market owing to the lack of money among wholesale consumers. In turn the peasants have no money to pay for equipment, fuel, and fertilizers. Plants producing mineral fertilizers are closing down, even though soils are beginning to degrade because not enough fertilizers are being applied. Compared to the paralysis that threatens the agro-industrial complex, local leaders believe that the inflationary step

of pouring more money into it would be the lesser evil. The agro-industrial complex is fully capable of operating on cost-recovery principles. To make this possible, it is necessary to eliminate the imbalance between prices for agricultural and industrial goods and create a normal accounting system. For the time being, agrarians believe, we are observing neo-Bolshevik attempts to implement economic reform at the expense of the countryside.

The "reconnaissance of the battlefield" carried out by A. Zaveryukha and V. Shumeyko has enabled the grand Council of Ministers to conduct a more objective discussion about the problems of the agro-industrial complex.

Shumeyko Chairs Conference on Financing TV, Radio

LD1108181793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government Council of Ministers, today held a concluding conference on issues linked to providing finance for television and radio companies and communications enterprises that distribute their programs. As a result, a draft government resolution and presidential decree on financing the electronic media have been prepared and will be examined by the presidium of the government in the very near future.

Almazov Appointed To Head Tax Police Department

LD1208102693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed an appointment naming (Sergey Nikolayevich Almazov) acting director of the Tax Police Department [Departament Nalogovoy Politsii] of the Russian Federation.

Selyunin: Russia 'Being Dragged Into Wars on All Fronts'

PM1108132393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Aug 93 p 1

[Commentator Vasiliy Selyunin article under the "Opinion" rubric: "'Do We Need a Russia Which Is at War?' Commentator Vasiliy Selyunin Poses This Question and Answers It"]

[Text] I am one of the few economists who do not consider that the exchange of the old-style money was a "catastrophe." Yes, it did cause inconvenience. But the adjustments made by the president's edict removed many of them. Moreover, any exchange of money is no picnic. But we should stop and think about Russia's financial losses in its relations with CIS countries. In 1992 they amounted to $17 billion. Whether this is a large or small amount becomes clear when you learn that a wealthy country such as the United States granted Third World countries aid to the value of less than $10 billion.

Nevertheless, recent months have been characterized by a degree of stabilization. The inflation rate has fallen. Moreover, privatization is under way, albeit falteringly. True, our legislators are attempting to hinder it in every possible way.

I consider it necessary to hold early elections not only of the legislature but of that part of the government which is hindering the reforms. Today 36 percent of the expected budget income goes on military expenditure. These are wartime figures. There will, of course, be no unemployment and the defense enterprises will continue to work. But what are we trying to achieve by this policy? We are dragging Russia into a war. Surely it is clear that our involvement in the Afghan-Tajik conflicts has no future?

Surely being dragged into wars on all fronts is not in Russia's interests? Incidentally, the decision about Sevastopol has also destabilized the relations which were being built with Ukraine. As early as the fall of this year, Russia may be at war on all fronts.

It seems to me that now the time has again come when the intelligentsia must speak out. I do not agree with the greatly respected Vladimir Maksimov, who in a recent interview with your newspaper said that the intelligentsia in Russia has always supported the powers that be. On the contrary, the genuine intelligentsia has always expressed discontent, always opposed the authorities. Vladimir Maksimov has also admitted to me that he does not believe Russia will enjoy better times. But I still believe in this at the moment.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Edict Reaffirms Citizens' Privatization Rights

PM1108153093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Report and commentary by Igor Karpenko: "The President's Third, Decisive Edict in Support of Privatization"]

[Text] On 10 August President B. Yeltsin signed an Edict "On Protection of the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation To Participate in Privatization."

It instructs the Council of Ministers to ensure that privatization checks are supported by the necessary quantity of property, and to ensure equitable conditions for everyone in Russia to acquire it. And, most importantly, the edict provides for a system of measures to clamp down unconditionally on infringements of Russian Federation legislation on privatization.

In particular, the Russian Federation Council of Ministers is instructed:

to implement measures to ensure that the purchasers' fulfillment of the terms of competitions for the sale of

facilities being privatized is monitored, and that any deals concluded with persons violating the said terms are annulled according to the procedure stipulated;

to take the necessary measures to ensure the prompt discovery of deals involving privatization checks that are concluded in violation of the requirements of Russian Federation legislation, and the institution of proceedings to declare them invalid;

to lay down forms of personal accountability of officials of organs of the executive power for infringing Russian Federation legislation on privatization;

to submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet a completed draft state program for the privatization of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation in 1993, following its approval by the highest organs of representative power of the components of the Russian Federation.

In previous issues of this newspaper I have suggested that there may be no need for a new presidential edict in order to restore stability in the privatization process, which was disrupted by parliament's constant decisions to suspend presidential enactments. After all, the new elements that these enactments introduced did not go beyond the bounds of existing legislation on privatization, but only imposed tougher demands for compliance with that legislation and measures to ensure accountability for infringing it. So this strategic goal could well have been achieved by a few concrete government decrees. This is actually what the president, in his new edict—as appears from its text—is instructing the Council of Ministers and other organs of executive power to do, stepping up the government's actions in the sphere of privatization.

This unusual move of incorporating the substance of earlier edicts in a separate, concrete document has, in my view, two aims. One is the operational aim of convincing the population of Russia that the privatization process will go ahead properly despite parliament's attacks, and that citizens' rights to their share of property are guaranteed and will be defended by the president. The second is the strategic aim of laying bare, so to speak, what it is that the Supreme Soviet has taken up arms against—namely, the struggle against infringements of the law and corruption in the sphere of changing ownership relations. And that robs the opposition of its populist pose as defenders of the Constitution, which was its justification for suspending the earlier edicts.

Another remarkable phenomenon can also be noted—in the present situation, the stock market dealers and entrepreneurs have reacted far more calmly to the political games over privatization. The rate for the privatization check on all Russia's exchanges has not only stopped falling, but has risen markedly—by 300-500 rubles on 10 August. Buyers on the "black," street market have raised the price to approximately the same extent.

Nonetheless, privatization has suffered some harm. Only the chaos which parliament introduces into this process can explain the very possibility of attempts arising in Maritime Kray, for instance, to stop check auctions. And it ill becomes certain representatives of the highest power to incite people to insubordination to Russian laws at enterprises and in labor collectives. Thus, Vice President Rutskoy, for instance, openly sought to incite the Bryansk machine building workers not to give up a single one of "their" shares at the check auctions to "outsiders" (the military, rural workers, teachers—are they foreigners, or what?). And moreover, he promised, yet again, to dismiss Chubays for this. Obviously it is infringements like this that the president's edict is supposed to counter.

Edict Published

PM1208112393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

["Edict of the Russian Federation President on Protecting the Right of Russian Federation Citizens To Participate in Privatization," signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 10 August 1993, No. 1238]

[Text] With a view to ensuring the stability of the legal fundamentals of a unified market in facilities for privatization in the Russian Federation, I decree:

1. That the Russian Federation Council of Minsters-Government is to use the full range of its constitutional powers:

to defend and maintain the level of the rights of Russian citizens (both those working in enterprises and those not employed in the production sphere) guaranteed by Russian Federation legislation to become owners of state and municipal property by means of ensuring a sufficient supply of property for privatization and of shares in privatized enterprises for sale against privatization checks;

to ensure equal conditions for the acquisition of property undergoing privatization throughout the Russian Federation's economic area;

to unconditionally interdict violations of Russian Federation privatization legislation.

2. That specialist check investment funds are forbidden to use the privatization checks of the population accumulated by way of exchanging them for securities issued by said funds other than to acquire shares in enterprises undergoing privatization.

That it is laid down that corporate bodies which are not banks or deposit takers are not entitled to exchange their own promissory notes, in addition to those mentioned in the preceding paragraph, for privatization checks.

3. That the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government:

is to implement measures to ensure monitoring of the fulfillment by purchasers of facilities for privatization of the conditions of competitions for the sale thereof, and to annul according to established procedure deals completed by persons violating the prescribed conditions;

is to ensure the necessary measures to promptly expose dealings in privatization checks which contravene the requirements of Russian Federation legislation and to bring actions to have them deemed invalid;

is to establish forms of personal liability of officials of organs of executive power for the violation by the said officials of Russian Federation privatization legislation;

is to submit the completed draft of the 1993 State Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet after it has been approved by the supreme organs of representative power of the Russian Federation components.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation, B. Yeltsin

Moscow, Kremlin

[Dated] 10 August 1993, No. 1238

Fedorov Predicts Stabilization Despite Political Opposition

LD1108150993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1321 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Now about today's news conference in Moscow by Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov. It was of course devoted to the condition of the state finances. This is how the finance minister described it:

[Begin Fedorov recording] We find ourselves at a very interesting moment in the development of our economy, when we have come right up against the possibility of financial stabilization. You know that for two months now the dollar-ruble rate has remained stable and in principle we fully expect the ruble to remain at about this level until the end of the year, unless there are explosions in economic policy.

Whatever the budgetary deficit—and we ended up with the same deficit we had been planning for ourselves—this shows that in principle there are chances of financial stabilization.

On the other hand, there are a big number of problems. First of all, there is the budget adopted by the Supreme Soviet with a gigantic deficit of over 22 trillion rubles; moreover, this budget was compiled incompetently and the figures do not tally. This budget could in itself lead to a fresh spiral of inflation and result in the current monthly inflation figure of 18-20 percent rising to 30-40 percent by end of the year. The president does not intend to fulfill this budget, and we have submitted all the documentation for a veto.

We will live in the near future by the budget the government submitted in accordance with the president's budget message.

The problems of financial stabilization are connected with the fact that the trust of the international community was substantially undermined by the notorious exchange of bank notes. We are also extremely perturbed by the fact that the program planned at the G-7 meeting in Tokyo in July, in which our president took part, could to a considerable degree be delayed and that considerable sums may not be received; this would also disrupt our plans.

So there is a complex situation in which there are signs of stabilization but also many dangers.

In this situation, cooperation with the Central Bank takes on colossal significance. Unfortunately, the latest actions of the Central Bank do not inspire hope of normal cooperation, although in May and June the Central Bank in principle fulfilled all the decisions jointly worked out and which were aimed at stabilizing the economy. [end recording]

[Announcer] Answering journalists' questions, Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov noted that the pressure on the government comes not so much from economic issues as from political pressure from the opposition and parliament. He cited, as examples, actions which in places went as far as strikes and which took place under the direction of the Agrarian Union, and also the inordinate financial demands from the Supreme Soviet.

A firm statement was made at the news conference that in spite of everything the government will continue its policy of developing the reforms. The foreign journalists were most of all interested in the government's attitude to foreign debts. So far, they have to be satisfied with a statement that Russia will honor its obligations.

Chernomyrdin Views Fedorov's Remarks on Bank Notes

PM1108130593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 93 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "V. Chernomyrdin Disagrees With B. Fedorov"]

[Text] Russian Government Head Viktor Chernomyrdin considers the different stance espoused by Russian Vice Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov on the question of exchanging outdated bank notes to be "B. Fedorov's personal stance, nothing more."

"In this case my subordinate is only speaking as Fedorov," the premier said in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX Wednesday [4 August] regarding the critical statements made by the Russian Federation finance minister, who considers the operation pointless.

V. Chernomyrdin stressed: "The government viewpoint of the operation to exchange banknotes was and remains

unchanged. No one in the government, apart from Fedorov, has any other opinions. After the beginning of the bank note operation I convened a Cabinet Presidium session. No one apart from the finance minster had a different opinion on this matter. And I am simply not interested in what is being said about this in some places."

In the premier's opinion, "no worsening of the economic situation has been recorded since the operation began." "In order to maintain the trend toward financial stabilization we must not allow into Russia the mass of money from abroad that is being brought in by steamship, car, and wagon," he continued. "This mass of money is sweeping aside everything, creating economic chaos in Russia, particularly in border regions, and inflating prices."

"Why have our close neighbors cut themselves off from us with their own currencies and why haven't we responded in kind? Some have built barriers with coupons, others with 'hares' [zaychiki] (the currencies of Ukraine and Belarus respectively—INTERFAX), others still using lits and lats (Lithuania and Latvia—INTERFAX)."

As for the Russian-speaking population in our near neighbors, in the opinion of the head of the Russian Cabinet, it has an opportunity to exchange its money at the official rate, without any limitation. However, the head of government pointed out that the problem of the plundering [rastaskivaniye] of the Russian market is at the moment technically insoluble. "There is nothing to maintain the borders," he explained, "Very many billions are needed to equip Russia's new borders in the appropriate manner, and that takes time and tranquil work. Although the actual trend of erecting borders when they are being removed worldwide cannot be considered a universal means for economic recovery."

Council of Ministers Deliberations Summarized

PM1108160593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Boris Pashkov report: "What the Grand Council of Ministers Decided"]

[Text] The Council of Ministers noted that the stabilization measures undertaken in the first six months of 1993 have enabled the sharp downturn in production and the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation in the Russian Federation recorded at the end of last year to be checked. However, additional measures are required to stabilize securely the position in the production sphere and the socioeconomic situation in the country.

With the aim of overcoming the crisis phenomena in the economy and the social sphere, the government approved the basic provisions of the Council of Ministers' report on the position of the Russian economy and the prospects for its development, and adopted as a working base the draft Government Working Program for the Development of the Reforms and the Stabilization of the Russian Economy in 1993-1995. It was recommended that ministries, departments, and the organs of executive power of the republics, krays, and oblasts be guided by the basic provisions of the report and the draft Working Program in drawing up sector and regional socioeconomic development plans.

It was proposed that Council of Ministers deputy chairmen, with the participation of ministries, departments, and Russian Federation components, elaborate proposals on a mechanism to implement the Working Program's first stage of socioeconomic transformations (1993-1994).

A number of measures were projected for the financial improvement of the economy. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations were instructed to elaborate, in consultation with the Central Bank of Russia, proposals for urgent measures to stabilize finances, including normalizing currency circulation, regulating the reciprocal payments of enterprises and organizations, and improving the work of banks. Provisions were made to implement specific actions to strengthen the Russian ruble, continue the tight monetary and credit policy, and strengthen control over state expenditure, ensuring that it is channeled into the implementation of federal programs on a target-led basis.

The Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Finance, and the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo] were instructed to prepare proposals for the periodic reassessment of the value of fixed capital and the revision of depreciation norms in vital sectors in the direction of increasing them.

In view of the sensitivity of the pricing question, it is essential that the Russian Federation Committee for Pricing Policy, the Ministry of Finance, and other ministries submit to the government a concept of state policy in the pricing sphere.

It was proposed that in their activity Goskomimushchestvo and the organs of executive power of the republics, krays, and oblasts should intensify the privatization process and increase the amount of property that can be privatized against checks through extending the scale of the flotation of major enterprises, expanding check auctions, and developing a system of financial institutions assisting citizens to invest their checks. They must observe to the letter the particular features of the privatization of enterprises of individual sectors established in presidential edicts and government decrees. They are to elaborate special approaches to the privatization of enterprises of the scientific and technical sphere and the defense complex, and also health, education, cultural, and sports facilities, ensuring that they retain their designated activities. They are to promote the creation of highly efficient and competitive financial-industrial groups, with the aim of accelerating scientific and technical progress and a move toward exporting a wide range of output of Russian enterprises. They are to implement

the necessary measures enabling a state-regulated stock market to be developed, including the creation of a Russian electronic stock market system facilitating the channeling of resources into the development of efficient production processes and of the regions. They are to create a normative-legal base for the successful functioning of privatized enterprises, including the establishment for them of priority credit terms. They are to elaborate a mechanism to wind up the activity of inefficient state enterprises.

In addition, Goskomimushchestvo, together with the interested ministries and departments, is instructed to elaborate proposals on the procedure for managing federal property, extending the rights of regions in the privatization of federally owned facilities. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers adopted a decision to elaborate measures for the state support of high-technology and highly efficient production processes and manufacturing technologies that determine modern standards in the output produced by defense complex enterprises, including high-precision instruments [vysokotochnoye priborostroyeniye], optical and electronic equipment, the production of particularly pure materials, and precision equipment [pretsizionnoye oborudovaniye].

On the basis of the situation currently developing in agriculture the Ministry of Agriculture, ministries and departments, and the organs of executive power are instructed to pay particular attention to the concentration of material-technical, financial, and labor resources for the organized gathering of this year's harvest, the transportation, storage, and processing of agricultural produce, and the latter's procurement for federal and regional stocks.

A number of departments are recommended to submit to the Council of Ministers proposals for improving the procurement and processing of grain and grain products and the storage of the same, having in mind the extension of the functions and rights of local procurement organizations and enterprises involved in the delivery and sale of grain and products processed from grain.

Ministries and departments should strengthen links with regional economic collaboration associations and exploit their capabilities to develop efficient forms of administrative organization, including intersectoral corporations, companies, and consortia.

In the preparation of draft legislative and normative acts it was decided to make provision where necessary for territorial differentiation in the proposed measures of state regulation of economic and social processes, taking into account the basic provisions of the Federation Treaty; and to concentrate efforts on creating an economic mechanism of federal relationships ensuring the formation of a new, market relations-based economic area and the further decentralization of the processes of reform management.

The Ministry of Health was instructed to ensure the procurement by import of medicines and of raw materials and substances for the production of medicinal agents at republic pharmaceutical industry enterprises by means of priority payments for crucial imports for 1993.

It is essential that the Ministry of Finance, together with the Central Bank, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population, submit proposals to the Council of Ministers for establishing arrangements for augmenting in 1993 the working capital of institutions of the pharmaceutical network, enterprises manufacturing medicines, bacterial preparations, and medical articles, orthopedic enterprises, and also enterprises belonging to invalid societies.

The relevant ministries and departments should convey to the organs of state power and administration of the northern regions a procedure for recompensing expenditure on providing the guarantees and compensation payments stipulated by the Russian Federation Law "On State Guarantees and Compensation Payments for Persons Working in Regions of the Far North and Equivalent Regions."

The Council of Ministers adopted measures for the prompt organization of work connected with preparing enterprises of the fuel and energy complex and the housing and utilities sector for work in the fall-winter period of 1993-1994, ensuring that stocks of fuel are accumulated at the depots of fuel-supply organizations, power stations, and municipal power facilities by 1 October 1993 at least at last year's level.

With a view to stepping up the population's participation in individual and cooperative housing construction, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Economy, and banks were instructed to prepare and submit to the Council of Ministers proposals for the allocation of preferential credits, and also for partial compensation for the increased estimated cost of house-building cooperative houses, including compensation from the federal budget.

A decision was adopted on state assistance for the development of production technology-sharing links between industrial, agricultural, catering, and processing enterprises and organizations of the Russian Federation and other countries of the former USSR ensuring the comprehensive use and intensive processing of industrial and agricultural raw materials, the rational use of capacities and fixed capital, and the reduction of the materials- and energy-intensiveness of the end product. Measures were outlined to speed up the elaboration of the principles, conditions, and phases of the transition to a full-scale economic union of states within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Finance, and other departments have been tasked with submitting to the Council of Ministers proposals on improving the system of privileges granted

to enterprises and organizations in the field of foreign economic activity, having in mind the creation of conditions for reducing import subsidies and eliminating them completely in 1994, and for stimulating the growth of Russian exports by lowering the level of export tariffs and creating an effective system of export and currency control.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Ministry of the Economy, with the participation of interested ministries and departments, have been instructed to prepare and submit to the Council of Ministers measures to strengthen the coordination and monitoring of Russian Federation components' international and foreign economic relations on the part of federal organs of state administration, being guided in this by the Constitution of the Russian Federation-Russia and the Federation Treaty.

In view of the need for state support for industrial enterprises in carrying out modernization and retooling and in creating import-replacing production facilities, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Justice have been asked to prepare proposals on introducing amendments and additions to the Russian Federation Law "On Customs Tariffs."

The issue of road traffic was also examined at the Council of Ministers session. A report was delivered by Russian Federation Minister of Internal Affairs V.F. Yerin. An appropriate decision was adopted on the results of the discussion.

Chubays News Conference on Privatization Process

LD1108205393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1521 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian State Property Committee, has held a news conference devoted to measures to protect citizens' rights to privatization. As is known, at the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet which had adopted a decision contradicting the government's policy in implementing privatization, Chubays promised countermeasures within three or four days. Now the president has signed a decree on protecting Russian citizens's rights to participate in privatization, and Government Chairman Chernomyrdin has signed a decision on the implementation of additional measures to protect Russian citizens' rights to participate in privatization. Here is what the chairman of the State Property Committee had to say on the subject.

[Begin Chubays recording] Unlike the two preceding decrees, this one does not contain any specific norms regulating the process of privatization. It contains the main thing—the government is instructed to ensure Russian citizens' rights to privatization guaranteed by the Russian Federation legislation. The government's decision proceeds from this demand by the president. One can say that, in essence, the decision restores all the norms introduced by the initial decree and the second decree. Stability in this process, which is the main and key one for us, has been restored.

Appraising the latest attack by the Supreme Soviet, one should say that, on the whole, as could be expected, its actual effect on the process of privatization was almost nil. As we expected, the rate of vouchers fell only slightly and then it became more stable fairly quickly. I have yesterday's report from the Russian commodity and raw materials exchange here. Yesterday's voucher rate was 9,570 rubles, and it is clear that the rate will be restored quite quickly, and to all appearances, it will exceed its nominal value within the next few days. This means, on the whole, that each subsequent attempt by the Supreme Soviet to upset the process of privatization looks increasingly inept and ineffective. All those norms which had to be restored to ensure that the process of privatization develops smoothly and irreversibly in the future, too, have been restored.

Understanding perfectly well who we are dealing with and trying to foresee yet another reaction from the Supreme Soviet, if such an action takes place, our esteemed people's deputies will have to face an obstacle—Article 109 of the Russian constitution. This article of the constitution enables deputies to suspend presidential decrees as soon as they are sent to the Constitutional Court, and the same article introduces another norm with regard to government decisions. It says that the Supreme Soviet has the right to submit representations to the Russian president on abolishing the government's decision. So I sincerely recommend that those people's deputies who intend to continue their fierce fight on the same front submit representations to the president with a view to abolishing this decision. Let us see how far they will get in this case. [end recording]

Chubays Approves Aeroflot Airline Privatization

MK1108120493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Andrey Lapik report: "Close, But No Cigar. 'Aeroflot' Bureaucrats' Parachute Did Not Open"]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays has kept his word: On Monday, he signed a State Property Committee regulation on the procedure for the privatization of the "Sheremetyevo" international airline complex. Thus, the prolonged conflict between the Aeroflot management and affiliate airlines, which carry out the bulk of flights, drew to a logical conclusion.

The affiliate airlines and the personnel of the Sheremetyevo- based airline technical enterprise, the "Sheremetyevo" international airport, the automated hauling complex, and the "Rossiya" inter- regional air service agency, who have taken their side, finally gained the upper hand, namely:

—the main assets of the Aeroflot international division, including planes, real estate, and foreign assets, will be brought together in the parent joint-stock company "Aeroflot—Russian International Airlines" [ARMAL], whose affiliates will operate under its trademark;

—all workers' collectives will be given 51 percent of the ARMAL parent company's stock on an equal basis;

—Aeroflot enterprises, which will operate as independent legal entities, will be linked via a system of contract relations.

The remaining 49 percent of the stock of the newly-created joint- stock company will be split as follows: 51 percent will be kept in federal ownership for three years, and 49 percent will be sold at a specialized check auction.

Thus, Aeroflot's monopoly on international flights will be broken, and in the near future passengers will deal with a number of mobile, competing airlines, which together with ground support services will have to constantly try to improve the quality of service and the organization of flights. Under this system, it is the passenger who will be the master of the situation, and the structural units will turn into independent firms that will be in full control of the operation of the joint-stock company. Not the passenger for bureaucrats, but bureaucrats for the passenger—this is the main result of the privatization option that has been adopted.

The State Property Committee's decision means that serious upheavals are in store for Aeroflot bureaucrats: the International Commercial Department is likely to be abolished completely, and the Central Administration of International Flights will be reorganized.

So we see that when management lays claims to property, they are not always doomed to success.

The State Property Committee's decision—which, as a matter of fact, has been approved by the Russian Federation Transport Ministry—needs another authorizing signature, however: that of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who signed a diametrically opposed resolution four months ago supporting an administrative privatization model, which caused the conflict at Sheremetyevo to burst into the open with threats of strikes and massive layoffs.

How will Viktor Chernomyrdin proceed now? As a matter of fact, this question applies not only to Sheremetyevo, but to the government's approach to privatization in general. Who will be the owners in this country? It seems that presently it is the prime minister who decides this....

Military & Space Issues

Conference on Servicemen's Social Protection Ends

PM1108132793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by Andrey Sharapov: "State in Debt to Army"]

[Text] Yesterday the all-Russia conference on questions of the social protection of servicemen and members of their families ended in the White House.

The targets of the servicemen's dissatisfaction are well known and perhaps the main one is the Ministry of Finances. It is too miserly in financing army needs and the payment of their money allowance to servicemen.

As Colonel General Pyankov recalled, today a lieutenant receives 20,000 rubles [R] for his post plus R26,000 for his rank, yet it costs about R40,000 to rent an apartment. But even these small wages are paid with a delay of two or three months. The number of officers without apartments is put at 160,000-170,000.

The problems of Kaliningrad Oblast, where there are now 17,200 officers' families without housing and the prospect of 30,000-40,000 such families, can serve as a paradigm of all-Russian problems.

In the conference's resolution its participants note that social tension caused by the executive power's failure to fulfill legislative norms and by the easing of control on this issue by parliament is intensifying in the Armed Forces. The military formations are inadequately provided with financial and material and technical resources for consolidating the Russian Army's combat readiness. The reduction of the numerical strength of the army and navy is being implemented without a consideration for the social consequences for servicemen and members of their families. The conference considered impermissible the delay in implementing the law "on the status of servicemen."

It has been recommended that the Supreme Soviet adopt a decree on urgent measures for the state organs' fulfillment of the laws on questions of the military's social protection: The Constitution (the existing one or one adopted in the future) should reflect the legal position of servicemen; changes should be introduced to the procedure for staffing the armed forces on a contract basis, considering that in practise under the present system servicemen are not informed of the most important terms of their military service.

It is recommended that the government elaborate and submit to parliament a program for the social protection of servicemen, create a department for monitoring the execution of law on the social protection of the military, and strengthen the mechanism for implementing servicemen's rights, stipulated by the law, to obtain housing, land plots, and financial aid. The federal budget should

provide for a special item of expenditure on the social protection of the military and a reserve of jobs (at least 2 percent of the total number) should be created for servicemen who have been injured while performing military service duties.

The prosecutor's office has been asked to create structural subunits for supervising the observation of legislation on servicemen's rights. The ministry of justice has been asked to create the duty of court workers who examine cases of the violation of servicemen's rights and legal interests.

Government, Parliament Seen Ignoring Servicemen's Problems

PM1108143493 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "Who Will Realize Serviceman's Right to Protection, and When? All-Russia Conference Devoted to Army's Problems Concluded Its Work Without Answering This Question"]

[Text] The second day of the All-Russia Conference on Questions of the Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen and Their Families also took place with the government's box remaining empty. Incidentally, the balcony, which usually houses the press, was empty too. A significant pointer—and this at a time when not only the destinies of hundreds of thousands of people but also, essentially, the fate of Russia's Armed Forces were being discussed in the hall. For, if we sum up all the speeches by representatives of administrations and of the regions' local soviets, it has to be stated frankly that with all its problems today the army...is of no use to anyone. To judge from the government's "interest" in this conference, it is primarily of no use to the Ministry of Finance.

Whichever thread you follow, it all boils down to one thing—no money. The local authorities have no money to construct housing for servicemen transferred to the reserve, the departments have no money to provide servicemen's families with municipal services at preferential tariffs, transport workers have no money to allow servicemen to travel free on public transport, etc. Finally, it has been coming to light in recent months that the Ministry of Finance has no money to pay for the army's upkeep. According to military financiers, money has to be extorted from the Finance Ministry literally bit by bit every day. One service family in two went without wages in June and July.

Maybe the army is already being funded according to the residual principle? Or the defense budget in general has been taken out of the state budget? No, the Supreme Soviet has allocated more than 8 trillion rubles [R] for defense needs. Where is it? Where are the debts to the Ministry of Defense—more than R2 billion? Why, in questions relating to transactions with the army (and, further on down the chain, with enterprises of the military-industrial complex), does the funding and credit-supply mechanism constantly seize up? Why does the state consider it possible to take out of the serviceman's pocket money which belongs to him? For a delay over paying money is not offset by interest for inflation. If the declared 80-percent pay raise, starting in July, turns into real money only in October, who has asked the serviceman's family whether it can afford to give this interest-free loan to the state in the person of the Finance Ministry? Those who had gathered for the conference were awaiting the answers to all these qeustions from the government—from the top people, moreover. In fact, the conference itself had been conceived as a step toward the creation of a real mechanism to ensure the effectiveness of military legislation.

Unfortunately, representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office also did not introduce any clarity into a seemingly simple question: Why does any official in our country break the law with impunity? It turns out that our modern bureaucracy is "a law unto itself." It is subject to no one and is not obliged to do as anyone directs. Incidentally, about directives: Army General Konstantin Kobets, deputy minister of defense, told the conference participants that during 1992-1993 alone Boris Yeltsin, supreme commander in chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and president of Russia, had issued 13 edicts and 12 directives which resolve the army's problems in one way or another. As the general delicately remarked, however, "the mechanism of execution still requires completion." Who intends to complete this mechanism, when, and how? In the absence of the second branch of power in the hall where the conference was taking place, the question remained open.

The All-Russia Conference adopted a very full resolution. It notes the army's disastrous position and a number of key problems. It proposes that the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government "draw up and submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet a federal program for the social protection of Russia's servicemen, persons discharged from military service, and members of their families" and also examine the question of creating on the basis of the Main Administration for the Social Protection of Servicemen and Their Families under the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population a department for analogous questions.

There is no doubt that the conference participants are sincerely interested in helping servicemen. Only a big question remains: How soon will these decisions "start working"? Meanwhile, the cold weather is approaching and, as I was told at the Defense and Security Committee, in the majority of districts no money has been allocated at all to preparing garrisons for winter.

The Ministry of Finance seems to have firmly taken in hand the business of protecting the fatherland.

New Border Guards Commander Profiled

PM1108111193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed untitled report]

[Text] Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev has been appointed Russian Federation deputy minister of security and commander of the Russian Federation Border Guards by a Russian presidential edict.

He was born in Moscow 21 April 1949. He graduated from the Moscow Higher Combined Arms Command College named for the RSFSR Supreme Soviet in 1971. His military career has mainly been spent in the Ground Forces. He commanded a platoon and a company in the Moscow Military District and, after graduating from the M.V. Frunze Military Academy in 1976 was in turn a battalion commander, chief of staff, and regiment commander in the Southern Group of Forces.

From 1982 through 1986 he was chief of staff and later commander of a motorized rifle training division in the Ural Military District. He graduated from the General Staff Military Academy in 1988 and was appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of an army, and later army commander.

From July 1992 he was first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff's Main Operations Directorate, and, in December that year, became first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff.

A.N. Nikolayev was promoted to captain, lieutenant colonel, and colonel ahead of schedule. He has been awarded an order and eight medals.

He is married with two sons.

Appointment Said Engineered by Grachev

PM1208101193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the "ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Dossier" rubric: "New Commander for Border Guards"]

[Excerpts] Colonel General Andrey Ivanovich Nikolayev, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, has been appointed commander of the Russian Federation Security Ministry Border Guards by an edict of the Russian president. [passage omitted]

It is thought in military circles that such an unusual transfer of a general from the Defense Ministry to the Security Ministry is to a certain degree linked with V. Barannikov's dismissal and Defense Minister P. Grachev's attempt in this connection to exert through his general an influence on the border guards as well.

However, there are also other accounts of this unprecedented appointment. According to informed sources, General Nikolayev was "cast into the fire" as he refused to take up the unpromising but honored position of aide to the Russian defense minister, and the latter apparently did not forgive him. A similar supposition about the reasons for Nikolayev's transfer is that P. Grachev deliberately got rid of a competitive "career" general fearing that the latter was "breathing down his neck."

Undocking of 'Progress M-17' From 'Mir' Reported

LD1108211693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1708 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The undocking of the "Progress M-17" automatic cargo ship from the "Mir" orbital complex took place at 1936 Moscow time today.

Flight Control Center reported that, in accordance with the program for the future operations of the space cargo-ship, during the course of several months of automatic flight it will undergo resource tests.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Votes To Check on Foreign Ministry Work

LD1208073193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] According to Vyacheslav Osipov, our parliamentary correspondent, the Russian Supreme Soviet has voted to set up a wide-ranging commission to check on the work of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry. Adopting this decision, deputies expressed dissatisfaction with the work of the Foreign Ministry leadership concerning the implementation of the Russian-Indian deal to sell space technology and the tackling of the problems of the town of Sevastopol. The Supreme Soviet also decided to hold a closed sitting on the situation in Chechnya. This decision was preceded by Ruslan Khasbulatov's statement to the effect that he has information that General Dudayev came to power in the Chechen Republic thanks to a 5 million [no currency specified] bribe given to Poltoranin and Burbulis.

Khasbulatov Aide Zlobin Assails Kostikov 'Attack'

LD1108185993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The following statement by Konstantin Zlobin, press secretary of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, was officially distributed here today:

On 11 August Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president of the Russian Federation, made his latest extremely crude and categorical attack on Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

This time a speech by the speaker of the Russian parliament to participants in a conference on issues of the social and legal defense of servicemen was used as an

excuse for these provocative insinuations. As can easily be determined by anyone who acquaints himself with the text, the speech gives an objective albeit impartial [as received] analysis of the economic policy which has brought the country's armed forces and defense industry to the brink of visible collapse.

The impression is being created that some people in the government structures would like to conceal the truth and to shirk responsibility for the complete breakdown in the economy and politics. That is precisely why a situation of panic hysteria and fear is being stirred up, tireless searches for an enemy are being conducted, and any sober, critical remarks are being subjected to distortions and obstructions.

At the same time, all this is clearly being done on the direct instructions of the president. One thing at least bears this out, and that is that at a news conference yesterday Boris Yeltsin once again made unsubstantiated accusations against the Supreme Soviet and its leadership and also gave a significant warning about preparations being made for September when, apparently, the question of power will be settled. In this way a veiled attempt is being made to blame representative power for all the mistakes and miscalculations which have brought the country to its present impasse.

All this in no way contributes to achieving national accord, which is so vital, and to solving the political and economic problems facing the country and leading it out of crisis. One would like to hope that the authors of the above-mentioned accusations against the Russian Supreme Soviet and its chairman are fully aware of the dangerous consequences of such actions.

Zolotukhin Comments on Khasbulatov Proposal

LD1108141193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, August 11 (TASS)—"An idea of Ruslan Khasbulatov on early termination of powers of the executive power is nothing but a camouflaged proposal to hold early elections of Russian President Boris Yeltsin," believes Supreme Soviet member Boris Zolotukhin.

Commenting on Khasbulatov's speech at the All-Russian Conference on Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen, Zolotukhin told ITAR-TASS "the appeal of Khasbulatov to renew the executive authority should be viewed as his striving to change the president, and the speaker is doing his best to make his dream come true.

"In my opinion, such a statement of a question is absolutely ungrounded, the more so it runs counter to the popular will expressed at the referendum, which supported both the economic policy of Boris Yeltsin and presidential activities in general."

Speaking of plans of the Supreme Soviet leadership to cut presidential powers through the introduction of amendments to the law on the Council of Ministers, Zolotukhin specified "it is the matter of depriving the executive power head of the right to replace ministers, who fail to supervise corresponding state activities." They want to remove ministers from their posts only on consent of the Supreme Soviet.

"This would mean a complete paralysis of the president's ability to efficiently control the executive power as ministers convenient for the parliament will stay on their posts. Such an interference in the competence of the executive power head can only destabilize state management," said Zolotukhin.

"Revanchist forces in the parliament are trying to strip the president of powers he needs to control the state. They do it hastily, being aware the Supreme Soviet will soon have to agree with early parliamentary elections".

The majority, "dreaming of the return of the communist regime rejected by the people", now controls the situation in the parliament, he said.

Amendments Proposed on Constitutional Changes

MK1108091493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 2

[Ivan Rodin report under the "Parliament" rubric: "Altering the Old Constitution Instead of Creating a New One; Vladimir Isakov Believes This is the Way the Constitutional Reform Tasks Will Be Solved"]

[Text] Much as was supposed, the Supreme Soviet recently did not just react to the president's move, it has been preparing without needless fuss to take over the initiative. This job was assigned to Mr. Isakov's Supreme Soviet Committee for Constitutional Legislation. He has done it, and a whole package of amendments to the current constitution will be submitted to parliament Thursday or Friday.

The changes affect Articles 104 and 109 of the Fundamental Law that deal with the powers of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet. It is proposed to exclude the provision that the Congress has the power to take up and resolve any issue under Russian Federation jurisdiction. It is proposed that the Supreme Soviet give its consent to the appointment or removal of the head of government, his first deputies, and simply his deputies, foreign, internal affairs, defense, and security ministers. Parliament is to be given the right to reorganize the Council of Ministers and to express no- confidence in both the cabinet as a whole and its individual members.

The chapter on the Presidency is also to be altered. The president is to remain the top official of the Russian Federation, rather than head of the executive branch. His powers in regard to the Council of Ministers are to be taken away and handed over by the Supreme Soviet to the government or its head. According to the proposed

amendments, the president neither appoints nor fires ministers; neither does he direct the cabinet's activities. The president would not be head of the Security Council and would not sign on behalf of the Russian Federation international and inter- republican treaties. He would not take measures to ensure the security of the Russian Federation. These prerogatives are also to be transferred to the chairman of the Council of Ministers. The president is to appoint and relieve diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation upon agreement with the Supreme Soviet. The president would be supreme commander-in-chief only on representation from the defense minister. Article 121-11 contains the following addition: "The impossibility of the president's performing his functions owing to poor health shall be established by a Constitutional Court decision based on a report from a State Medical Commission appointed by the Supreme Soviet." Vladimir Isakov thinks the changes in the Constitution suggested by his commission are a gentler way of resolving the constitutional crisis than simply to eliminate the post of president, something that individual spokesmen for the public have insisted upon. In his words, "the deputies have become mature enough to realize that constitutional reforms are necessary." Hence he is ready to submit his work for the approval of the Congress whose session to pass a new constitution is scheduled for 17 November. It is more likely than not, however, that it will busy itself with altering the old one.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin To Attend Republic Leaders' Conference in Karelia

LD1108210493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2013 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will leave for Petrozavodsk [capital of Karelia Republic] on Thursday afternoon to participate in the meeting of the Council of Republican Heads.

Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray told ITAR-TASS today the council will hold a plenary meeting in Petrozavodsk to discuss the draft fundamentals of Russian legislation on the implementation of the federal treaty, which was prepared by an expert group from the Council of Republican Heads (one legal expert from each republic) and progress of the constitutional reform.

In the words of Shakhray, the council meeting is expected to be attended by the majority of heads of republics, including Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Adygeya, North Caucasian republics, Komi, Karelia, Marii-El, Mordovia and Chuvashiya. Besides, the meeting will be attended by chairmen of interregional associations—Siberian Agreement, Northwestern, North Caucasian and Central Russian region.

In his turn, the Khakasiya Supreme Soviet chairman did not exclude a possibility the meeting will "discuss the grave economic situation in the country." Representatives of the Siberian Agreement Association will try to appeal to the president with their vision of problems of the vast Russian region, he said.

Buryatiya Parliament Head Leonid Potapov considers premature the claims the new Russian constitution is ready, which were made after the second stage of the constitutional conference. He told ITAR- TASS in Ulan Ude it is first of all necessary to eliminate contradictions between specific articles of the future fundamental law and the federal treaty and improve wordings on the status of republics within the Russian Federation.

In his opinion, the final variant of the new constitution must be initialed by all federation subjects.

At the same time, Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet Chairman Murtaza Rakhimov told ITAR-TASS in Ufa as long as basic mechanisms to implement the federal treaty are not elaborated, "any constitution is out of the question." He stressed "the constitution must be adopted only in the legitimate way by the congress of people's deputies and initialed by peoples of Bashkortostan and other republics."

The Council of Republican Heads, whose chairman is Boris Yeltsin, was formed last fall to settle relations between the federal authorities and republics within the Russian Federation.

It has taken active part in discussion of the mechanism to implement the federal treaty and a possibility to reform the budget system to increase the independence of republics in solution of social and economic issues.

To Propose 'Key Principles' to Regions

MK1208094893 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No. 90, 12 Aug 93 (Signed to press 11 Aug 93) p 1

[Vladimir Vyunitskiy report under the "Forecast Analysis" rubric: "Petrozavodsk Hurdles"]

[Text] The meeting of heads of republics and oblasts within the Russian Federation, which is scheduled to convene on 13-14 August in the capital of Karelia at the initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, is set to become an important event in Russia's political life. It is expected that it will provide the stage for yet another attempt to reach a compromise regarding the country's national and state structure and to achieve agreement on this basis on the most controversial economic and social issues.

What the presidential team is going to bring to the conference is easy to imagine. With more than two weeks to go before the Petrozavodsk meeting, representatives of northwestern Russia—Karelia, Vologda, Kaliningrad, Leningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, Smolensk, Tver, and Yaroslavl Oblasts, and also the city of St. Petersburg—have already gathered nearby, on the

ancient Pskov soil... Pointing to the similarity between the current political situation in Russia and the processes that brought down the Union, and acknowledging that regional and ethnic separatism is being used as a weapon in the political confrontation between the echelons of state authority in the Russian Federation, they adopted the statement "For the Integrity and Unity of a Free Russia." It contains the key principles that, apparently, will be proposed by the presidential side following a large-scale sounding-out conducted by its authoritative members.

What kind of principles are these? First of all, this is a thesis that Russia cannot overcome the current political crisis without reaching national accord. As for the fundamentals of statehood, they should include the maintenance of the integrity of the Russian state, the unity of its constitutional and economic space, the equality of rights of all the Federation components, the impermissibility of rigid unitarianism and regional separatism. At the same time, the state's regional policy should ensure an increase in the level of independence of the Federation components, especially through a drastic restructuring of the federal authorities' taxation and budgetary policies.

The chief objective of the proposals, as far as one can judge from the statement of the participants in the Pskov meeting, is a call on all the government authorities of all the Russian Federation components to complete the discussion of the Russian Federation's new draft constitution, which was approved by the Constitutional Conference, and thus to create conditions for its adoption in 1993...

To all appearances, something of this kind will be proposed by President Yeltsin himself on 13-14 August in Petrozavodsk. Possibly, he will spell out in a more specific fashion an economic concept of relations between the federal center and the republics, at least within the limits provided in the newly-announced Government Program for the Stabilization of the Economic Situation.

The question is elsewhere: whether this can be a foundation on which a compromise in relations with the Federation components, especially the republics, can be achieved. The republics' stance is one of the main hurdles barring the path of the constitutional process. Clearing it will not be an easy task. The republics have an interest in setting up a two-tier state structure for Russia—split into national-territorial entities, on the one hand; and krays, oblasts, and okrugs on the other... If this concept is retained, this could be a basis for reaching a compromise with them. In this event, however, a "sovereignization" of Russian oblasts and krays is to be expected following Sverdlovsk Oblast's example. This poses, perhaps, the greatest threat, for it would lead directly to the Russian Federation's collapse.

It is well known that Sergey Shakhray tried to reconcile these two approaches by putting forward the formula: "Equal rights for all components with differences in their status, and national-state trappings to be retained for some time." The essence of the formula from the state-law point of view is yet to be expanded, so there have been no responses to it so far. The president may clarify it in Petrozavodsk, thus eliminating the differences in conflicting approaches. Otherwise, practical, constructive results may not materialize. And they are so badly needed.

Shatalin Interviewed on Ossetia-Ingushetia Conflict

PM1208115193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin by Vladimir Gondusov and Mikhail Shevtsov; place and date not given: "Hot Spots—Caucasus Knot"]

[Text] Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin, having already worked as interim administration head in the restricted zone under the state of emergency regime in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, took up this post once again after the tragic death of Viktor Polyanichko. Our conversation with Yuriy Vasilyevich began with an evaluation of the situation in the state of emergency zone.

[Shatalin] The atmosphere is tense. Unfortunately, effective measures to combat terrorism and individual gang attacks have not been found anywhere in the world. Nor have we found an antidote, although we have tried to reduce human losses to a minimum.

The internal kindling of passions continues in the region. And it will go on until we resolve the question of returning refugees to former or agreed places with high concentrations of these populations [mesta kompaktnogo prozhivaniya]. This is a powder keg... You know, in saying this I am arguing from a purely commonsense standpoint: Would any one of us remain composed upon finding himself in the position of the Ingush or the Ossetian whose house has been occupied? No way!

[Gondusov] Do you yourself see any solution?

[Shatalin] Yes, I do. The process of reconciliation has to begin not from above but from below. No power structures, decrees, or decisions will be effective unless people themselves are ridden with anguish for the position of their erstwhile neighbors, friends, and close acquaintances. It is vital that people at gatherings, meetings, or simply in conversation should come to the conclusion that those who bear no guilt for the tragedy, deaths, or pogroms should return to their homes.

This is a painstaking and complex task. In order to convince people of the need for such a step, leaders ought to knock on people's doors, go out onto the streets, and into the countryside rather than just sit in their offices generating paperwork. Rallies are unnecessary—it only takes one raving speaker there to confuse the people.

What is needed is a heart-to-heart conversation with each individual. After all, not everybody is consumed with a feeling of hatred...

Then spend 10 or 12 days taki. g stock: Who can return, whom will the people accept? If protection is required, we will find the men, equipment, and weapons for this, and we will shield people from all kind of "propagandists" and nationalists. And so gradually, step by step, we can start to get this sensitive problem moving.

Society and the mass media must help the power structures. One question has often occurred to me: There are hundreds of different funds in our country, but why is it that their representatives never come to the state of emergency region?

[Gondusov] Yuriy Vasilyevich, quite a few decisions on disarming illegal formations in both republics have been adopted. However, there hasn't been much progress in this area...

[Shatalin] The rival sides are well established, and through their own decrees the republics have elevated the armed formations to the rank of state structures. No matter whom we detain for possession of weapons, they all have documents and official stamps authorizing them to carry these weapons.

A report was sent to Moscow, and it was shown that it is necessary to bring the armed structures in proportion with the size of the population. The question was asked: Why is an entire regiment being formed in Nazran for patrol-post service? What kind of place is this that a whole regiment has been set up for three rayons? After all, somebody sanctioned its formation...

And how many "legalized" armed formations are there in North Ossetia? Nobody is handing over any weapons—on the contrary, they are requesting more and more. Recently, the republic asked for an additional 1,500 carbines for the security directorate. I said: Hand over the same amount of submachineguns, then you will get the carbines. Some 300 items were surrendered, and that is all...

Nor were armored vehicles returned. They were concealed outside the state of emergency zone altogether. We know where they are, but our rights do not extend to these places. The creation of armed structures has to be stopped not only in the state of emergency zone, but in all regions of interethnic conflict: In particular, it is vital to stop the supply of weapons there. The are only used against us. All peacekeeping functions have to be performed by subunits brought in from other regions.

[Gondusov] For many years you commanded the Union Internal Troops. In the state of emergency region, naturally, there has again been occasion to encounter their activity. What feelings does this encounter rouse?

[Shatalin] Primarily feelings of bitterness. Unfortunately, many of the problems which we were trying to resolve in the hot spots before, especially concerning troop provision, have not budged an inch. People are still "sleeping on the ground and in their vehicles." In the ice and rain, pushed to the limit of human endurance, and constantly exposed to danger, they serve. And not just for a few hours, but for weeks, months.

I have tried to help as much as I can. I even exceeded my powers by allocating millions of rubles for gifts for the servicemen on Victory Day. And I have always tried to give just that little bit more attention to people in uniform, whether this concerns recommendations for awards, or resolving some or other daily life or service problem.

It quite often happens that I run up against the dependence of local powers: A situation has only to deteriorate a little for them to demand more troops. But nobody will ask the soldier: How's life? They believe that the guys are sculpted out of stone, that their patience is unlimited. At some conferences, all you hear is that servicemen are boozers, they behave outrageously. I have always said: Give me just one specific instance. We'll go there together, we'll check it out. Bandying reproaches and spreading rumors is an artless affair. What we need are facts, and there are none...

[Gondusov] The situation is clear with regard to the internal troops. But how have things worked out with other structures?

[Shatalin] Fine. They knew me from many years of service, they respected me. There is a particular abundance of "Afghan veterans" in that region. At any conference, there was a mass of familiar faces.

[Gondusov] The conflict in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia has not only affected these republics, it has also exacerbated a number of problems in the region, in particular the problem of the Terek Cossack community...

[Shatalin] You are right. And this third force is asserting itself with increasing vigor. It must not be forgotten that the Cossacks are also an injured party. It is for this reason that they are quite justifiably raising the question of talks. They must not be forgotten when adopting government decisions. Those interested in an alliance with the Cossack community are stubbornly trying to pull it onto their side. For some reason, the central Russian powers bypass this force. But it has to be controlled, otherwise a social explosion is inevitable.

It has to be admitted that the Cossack community is increasingly finding its feet as a social force. As for efforts to defend themselves, these are quite justified. Given that the state has lost the reins of government, it cannot provide protection from robbery and attack, it cannot guarantee the primacy of the law—and people are seeking ways to do this themselves.

Recently, the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples has been flirting heavily with the Cossack community. My attitude toward this Confederation is ambivalent. On the

one hand, it is essential to collaborate on a precise basis with the Confederation—after all, their ideas coincide with Russia's interests in this region. On the other hand, nationalistic tendencies are often manifested there.

[Gondusov] To finish our conversation, Yuriy Vasilyevich, where do you see a way out of this impasse?

[Shatalin] I see it in the stabilization of the situation across the whole of the Caucasus. I believe that the main irritant in the region is the Chechen problem, and this has to be resolved as quickly as possible. It cannot be ruled out that a Veinakh state will eventually be set up, and Chechnya and Ingushetia will join it. This will happen if we fail to make headway in settling Ossetian-Ingush relations, and if we fail to note trends for the development of the situation in Chechnya. The conflict cannot be kept in check through the efforts of the Russian military forever. If the politicians are unable to propose a rational way out of the prevailing situation, then the peoples will seek one themselves, which entails the possibility of a fresh upsurge of tension.

Naturally, combat operations in Abkhazia affect the situation in the Caucasus. It is also necessary to solve the problem of the Cossack community, as I have already mentioned. All these problems are "tied" one to the other. And they can be solved not only by Moscow, but also by all Caucasus forces interested in stabilizing the situation in the region.

N. Ossetian Parliament Chairman Interviewed on Conflict

PM1208110193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1,5

[Interview with Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, by IZVESTIYA's Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy and FEDERATSIYA's Petr Pliyev; place and date not given: "Akhsarbek Galazov: Mistake in Law on Territorial Rehabilitation Was Cause of Tragedy of Ossetians and Ingush"]

[Text] The situation in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict drastically deteriorated after the terrorist act against the head of the region's interim administration. The already difficult advance toward some stabilization was clearly complicated. Is it possible to ease the tension? Akhsarbek Khadzhimurzayevich Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, sets out the Ossetian leadership's stance.

[IZVESTIYA] In your view, how has the settlement process in the region gone of late?

[Galazov] I think that the latest steps taken have advanced this process. The leaders of the regional authorities met with the Russian head of government and president. Efforts have also been made by people's diplomacy—there have been meetings of the Ossetian and Ingush elders and a meeting planned between representatives of women's organizations. A joint commission was at work in Terek, not to mention the insistent quests for points of contact with the interim administration. But the increasingly frequent terrorist acts are hampering this process. They have brought about the deaths of Ossetians. And there are forces within our republic that have alluded to this and are demanding that the talks be ceased altogether.

From the very outset of the tragedy I rejected the wording "Ossetian-Ingush conflict." Ossetia does not lay claim to anyone else's territory either in the north, the south, or the west. The only thing that we want is to be allowed to work in peace in our small republic, to be left to raise our children and to solve our own problems. The main thing that distinguishes our stance from the Ingush side's approaches is the territorial claims that served as a spur to the tragedy.

The moratorium on changes in borders until mid-1995 is not solving the problems. I think that the Russian leadership should remove the territorial questions once and for all in principle—there are after all 37 rayons in the North Caucasus alone to which various republics are laying claim. The key mistake in the Law on the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples is Article 6, which envisages territorial rehabilitation. This legal and political nonsense, which was what caused the tragedy, constantly prevails over talks between Ossetians and Ingush. Regrettably, the recent Ingush people's congress repeated the territorial claims and threats not only against Ossetia, but also against Russia.

[IZVESTIYA] What other differences in the sides' approaches do you consider the most important?

[Galazov] The Ingush side, with the help of federal organs of power, is trying to resolve the refugee problem by strong-arm means and is trying to speed up the refugees' return. We act on the basis of life's realities when we say that it is impossible for Ossetians and Ingush to live together in the near future (however blasphemous that sounds at first). This is brutal and tragic, but reality nonetheless. The blood is still fresh, and the wounds have not yet healed. Therefore neither the Russian Army nor we can guarantee the safety of the Ingush if they return to the areas where they lived before. After all, even today when the hostile sides are separated, shots are constantly to be heard in Ossetian population centers and terrorist acts are constantly being committed. The only sensible, feasible solution to the situation, in our view, is to settle the Ingush refugees in close-knit areas. It is hard to predict what will happen tomorrow, but it is quite essential today to draw a buffer line.

What is more, the refugee problem must be resolved in a comprehensive manner. This means that refugees in North Ossetia must also be taken into consideration. After all, quite recently there was one refugee for six inhabitants of the republic. We have five categories of

refugee today. First, refugees from South Ossetia, second, refugees from internal areas of Georgia, third, Ossetian refugees from Central Asia, mainly Tajikistan, fourth, Meskhetian Turks en route to their former places of residence in Georgia who have not received asylum there, and, fifth and last, Cossacks from Chechnya and Ingushetia. Most of these people have escaped death and no one can take responsibility for sending them back to their death. Only we now have 46,000 registered refugees in our republic. And when we speak of close-knit areas, we are also referring to these unfortunates, including those from Prigorodnyy Rayon. We have offered Ingush refugees the village of Mayskoye, which will have room for expansion and around which there is fine land.

[IZVESTIYA] After the tragic death of Viktor Polyanichko Ingush President Ruslan Aushev said that this did the Ossetians a service since the head of the interim administration was literally the next day to name four population centers where the Ingush were to be settled. What can you say about that viewpoint?

[Galazov] First, we have evidence that the trail of all the terrorist acts committed on Ossetian territory leads back to Ingushetia. As for Polyanichko's murder, the speed of Ruslan Aushev's conclusions is amazing, especially since he is a military man and it is not appropriate for him to issue statements that are not based on the real facts. If they are found, the bandits who committed this murder would be a disgrace for any nation, whatever nation they belong to, and they must be punished with all severity.

The four population centers that Polyanichko was supposedly to have decided on are, in my view, still an abstract. The appeal from the president and the prime minister indicates the need to resettle refugees in four population centers. However, neither Galazov, Polyanichko, Chernomyrdin, or Yeltsin can decide individually which specific villages. They can ultimately only be named by the residents of the villages at issue. That was also why the joint commission led by Polyanichko was set up. But he also had cochairmen—from the Ossetian and Ingush sides. So I think it unfounded to say that the reason for Viktor Petrovich Polyanichko's death was his alleged personal intention of immediately deciding on four places for Ingush areas.

[IZVESTIYA] Following the recent terrorist acts there were demands made at mob rallies for the Ingush remaining on the Right Bank, in particular, in the village of Kartsa, to be moved. How do you view these appeals?

[Galazov] Naturally I take a negative view, just as I do of any other extremist statements. This mob, incidentally, also demanded that there be no talks with the Ingush in the next 100 years. But I am sure that these demands are not shared by the multiethnic people of North Ossetia.

[IZVESTIYA] Of course, in these acute, grave situations long-range forecasts are a thankless business. But nevertheless how soon, in your view, can peaceful coexistence between Ossetians and Ingush be achieved? What is the top priority for this?

[Galazov] The main key to resolving this problem is the creation of an Ingush republic. Ingushetia today has a unique opportunity to shape a normal economic base and state infrastructure. It is the simplest thing in the world to proclaim a republic, but if it does not start building a capital, industrial enterprises, and everything that makes up a full-fledged state, the Ingush republic will remain a political declaration. I think that the leaders of the Ingush people must stop seeking a solution to the problem of statehood elsewhere. If people in Ingushetia were now involved in resolving this major, internal problem, their claims to North Ossetia's territory would gradually disappear. And instead of firing shots, people would do something useful and build their own state.

[IZVESTIYA] The Ingush side consistently presses for Russian troops to be withdrawn from the region. The Ossetians, on the other hand, time after time have asked for the state of emergency to be extended. In your view, is it feasible for the Russian peacekeeping forces to pull out today?

[Galazov] That is a quite correct definition: The Russian troops attached to the interim administration are precisely that, peacekeeping forces. And although the Ossetians have their complaints about the Russian soldiers, one must realize that it is only with their help that it will be possible to avert a huge war in the North Caucasus. They are needed today as a force of demarcation and deterrence. And I would like to express my gratitude to the Russian troops for their very difficult peacekeeping mission.

[IZVESTIYA] Because the refugee problem is not being solved instantaneously, ad hoc, the Ingush leadership from time to time says that Ingushetia may leave Russia. How do you regard such threats in principle—and not only those made by Ingushetia?

[Galazov] As for North Ossetia, its people cannot imagine themselves outside Russia. As Supreme Soviet chairman—let these not just seem big words—I am doing everything in my power to preserve the integrity of the Russian Federation and great Russia. I viewed with pain the collapse of the Soviet Union and voted against the relevant point in the Declaration on Russian Sovereignty. Because I saw a serious mistake was being made, since Russia was the backbone holding up the Union. But you cannot turn back the clock. And I now take a negative view of the stance espoused by those republics that talk about leaving Russia.

As for the constitutional process, I take an extremely negative view of those politicians who are using the Constitution and its adoption as a destabilizing factor. In civilized states the drafting of a new constitution is always designed to unite the people and is not directed against their prosperity and tranquillity.

[IZVESTIYA] Outside threats and outside conflicts generally consolidate the people. What role is the opposition

now playing in Ossetian society and how are your relations developing with it?

[Galazov] I won't venture to say how extensive the opposition's support in society is. Judging from the rallies, of which were plenty were held in North Ossetia after the tragedy, the radical slogans—calling for the cessation of the talks and a strong-arm solution to the conflict—have no serious support. The multiethnic people of North Ossetia has indeed joined forces and felt one another's support. People realize that any war means death and suffering. That is why I think most of them realize that extremist slogans are only part of politics, not life.

[IZVESTIYA] You sometimes hear it said that it is in the interests of the Russian center to keep the Ossetian-Ingush conflict smoldering inasmuch as it enables it to control the political situation in the region and keep a large military grouping on its southern borders. What is your view of that opinion?

[Galazov] I do not think that any sensible man either in the center of Russia or in the North Caucasus would support the conflict smoldering or increasing. Because any smoldering fire may spread to other regions. I therefore do not think that sensible Russian politicians are interested in its "smoldering." At least my meetings with the president and other Russian leaders have given no cause for such assumptions. Their actions may not always be accurate, but they are sincerely trying to stabilize the situation in the North Caucasus.

Rutskoy Visits Smolensk, Promises To Urge Pre-Term Elections

LD1108160193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's working visit to Smolensk Oblast continues. At a conference today of public representatives and leaders of oblast organizations, industrial enterprisesm and agriculture, Rutskoy made the following announcement, I quote: At the next congress of soviets, I will definitely call for pre-term elections to the presidency and the Supreme Soviet. This has to be done to end diarchy in the republic, Rutskoy said.

Ispravnikov Criticizes Privatization Program at Omsk Meeting

PM1108130793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Margarita Ziangirova report: "Vladimir Ispravnikov: I Have Been and Remain a Law-Abiding Citizen"]

[Text] Omsk—Vladimir Ispravnikov, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has had a meeting in the Omsk Sociopolitical Center with representatives of the oblast's business circles and political parties and movements.

After making a positive assessment of the results of the All-Russia Economic Conference, V. Ispravnikov went on to remark that the Russian economy is now being turned into an appendage of developed countries. While not denying the importance of foreign investments, he believes that in Russia priority must be given to Russian entrepreneurs, producers, and scientists. What is needed for this is banking reform, a new system of taxation of enterprises, a change of emphasis in economic policy, and compliance with legislation.

Ispravnikov expounded his own viewpoint on the reform of the banking system: The main reason for the delay in payments inside and outside Russia is that all functions have been delegated to the Central Bank and to all kinds of cash payment centers. In order somehow to improve the situation, in his opinion, it is necessary to make commercial banks fully functional and to grant them freedom of action. Ispravnikov also said that on 1 September the Supreme Soviet will begin examining new tax legislation, and the government will also participate in this. The deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet spoke unflatteringly about the privatization which is taking place in Russia. In his view the government must submit the privatization program to parliament annually, but this is not done. Hence there are all sorts of flaws. According to Ispravnikov, the Supreme Soviet and its chairman play a stabilizing role in Russian politics. The present complex situation in the country can be resolved at the negotiating table.

International Affairs

Parliament Views Crimean Laws, Russian Claims

PM1208083593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Irina Pogodina report: "Ukrainian Parliament Ready To Review Crimea's Status"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian parliament is ready to review the Crimea's status. The reason for this being over 50 differences between the texts of the Ukrainian and Crimean Constitutions discovered by the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commissions on Legislation and Legality and Economic Reform.

The reasons that impelled the parliamentary commissions to analyze the texts of the fundamental laws are undoubtedly connected with Russia's recent actions toward Sevastopol and, thus, Crimea as a whole. Ukrainian legislators are convinced that the more autonomy (under the law on separation of powers adopted 30 July 1992)—and subsequently without that law (under laws adopted by the Crimean Supreme Soviet last year)—the autonomous republic receives, the more this generates Russian territorial claims on Ukraine.

At the same time, not only has the Crimean legislative organ failed to bring the autonomous republic's fundamental law into line with the Ukrainian Constitution, but it is also continuing activity aimed at creating an independent sovereign state on Ukraine's territory. Property complexes and a series of provisions on the Crimean population's civil rights are being removed from Ukrainian jurisdiction, and power and executive structures are being set up for which Ukraine's laws make no provision.

In this connection the commissions have prepared a draft decree for the next Ukrainian Supreme Council plenary session proposing that the question of the entry into force of the law on the demarcation of powers between Ukrainian and Crimean organs of state power not be submitted for discussion, and also that the operation of Crimean legislative and other normative acts that contravene current Ukrainian legislation be suspended.

The commission's findings accompanied by a detailed list of violations have been sent to Simferopol, and the Crimean Supreme Soviet still has time to "turn over a new leaf" before the parliamentary session in Kiev, which is only due to be held toward the end of August. But Ukrainian legislators hardly believe that the warning will have any effect on the Crimean Supreme Soviet, which will probably not miss an opportunity to reap political dividends from the problems in Russian-Ukrainian relations.

Russian Defense Paper Views Black Sea Fleet Dispute

PM1108165993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Oleg Odnokolenko: "Is It Possible To Agree from Position of Strength, or Who Is Playing First Fiddle in Russian-Ukrainian Relations?"; final paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA comment]

[Text] It has to be noted with regret that Russia and Ukraine have been able to agree on all points, so to speak, only once—in Belovezhskaya Forest. Further relations between the two very close neighbors have been characterized by extreme lack of consistency and frequent reviews of viewpoints. Especially on two key problems—the "Black Sea" problem and control over nuclear weapons remaining on Ukrainian territory after partition.

It is already hard to count how many times there has been an attempt at various levels, including summit level, to decide the question of the Black Sea Fleet in general and the status of Sevastopol in particular, and how many options have been proposed that seemingly suit both sides. It would seem quite enough for civilized relations and mutual understanding. But no. On each occasion at the most critical moment something happens which really cancels out the results of the negotiation process. And now, as a group of Crimean Supreme Soviet deputies reports in a letter to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, the army corps stationed here has been increased several times over and 62 armored personnel carriers, flamethrowers, and thousands of airborne troops have been moved to Sevastopol from West Ukraine. And Ukrainian fighters are on combat air patrol over Black Sea Fleet military establishments...

What is all this for? One can understand what it is for. It remains merely to be hoped that the saber-rattling will not develop into something more, that both sides will have sufficient common sense and their nerves will not get the better of them.

And here is another notable thing. Since the Crimean parliamentarians have been obliged to inform President Kravchuk about what is happening on Ukrainian territory, you form the impression that the head of state indeed does not know what his military department is doing. Is that possible? How can we know... But I have before me the Ukrainian premier's statement on a different subject—Kiev's decision, counter to international agreements, to establish control over the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory, and the reaction to this statement from the Russian Federation Government, set out in its 4 August statement. As was to be expected Leonid Kuchma resolutely denied accusations that Kiev was attempting to establish control over the nuclear weapons. But here is what he said then: "Perhaps Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov has such plans, but the Defense Ministry cannot do it with its own efforts."

In my opinion commentary is superfluous. Is it worth saying anything more if the head of the cabinet of ministers also has no knowledge of what plans are being nurtured in the military department? In this connection one is very alarmed by the recent report that Ukraine is allegedly able to develop its own codes for launching nuclear missiles. But the question is where will these missiles be retargeted? It is to be supposed they will not be targeted against America, which Kostyantyn Morozov himself visited quite recently.

So who in Kiev is determining the foundations of Russian-Ukrainian relations? If it is the power ministry then one can understand why these relations are constantly being deadlocked.

Incidentally. Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, who arrived in Moscow 11 August, suggested resolving the problem of Sevastopol by leasing it to Russia. The Paris newspaper LE FIGARO reports that Leonid Kuchma has plenty of arguments. According to him Ukraine is paying astronomical sums considerably beyond its potential to maintain the port, which since 1854 has been the main base of the Black Sea Fleet. In addition by leasing Sevastopol, Russia is acknowledging de facto that this city belongs to Ukraine, the prime minister believes.

Sevastopol Views Ties to Russia, Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting

MK1108125093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Pilat report under "Crimea" rubric: "'We, the Residents of Sevastopol, Shall Overcome Ukrainian Separatists but, Unfortunately, With Bloodshed.' Against the Backdrop of Such Statements, Preparations Are Being Made for a Meeting of the Ukrainian and Russian Presidents"]

[Text] It is quiet in Sevastopol now. It is extremely difficult to get to this city, however; and we, a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent and a group of Dutch journalists, in spite of the duly processed passes and visas, had to spend a long time at a checkpoint. There were numerous phone calls, reports, and explanations as to who is coming and which media organizations they represent. But now everything is behind us, and we go to Sevastopol.

In the very center, on Ushakov Square, we decided to interview passers-by. That was the idea of Hert-Jan Deppehamp [name as transliterated], a Dutch radio correspondent accredited to Moscow. We were assisted by his interpreter, Aleksandra Persits. For 3 hours, we polled more than 30 people of various ages, and it transpired that all of them were born and raised in Sevastopol. None of them supported the second People's Veche session that was in progress that day, although a considerable number of the respondents believe that Sevastopol must by right belong to Russia. Eleven people think that it is impossible to change the city's status now since, as a 35-year-old engineer from the Sevastopol Maritime Plant said, this "could ultimately lead to undesirable consequences and even a war between Russia and Ukraine."

Sevastopol residents are not sure that the upcoming meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk will bring any benefit since their opinions and judgments on the issue of Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet coincide very little. A city schoolteacher observed that the meeting could raise passions even higher, and could intensify the activity of extreme radical Russian parties and movements in Sevastopol, as actually happened after the signing of the Moscow agreement on the Black Sea Fleet. Captain 3rd Rank Andrey Naumenko is convinced: "The whole problem is that officers, NCO's, and admirals are not so much concerned about the Russian Black Sea Fleet as they fear that otherwise they could be transferred to serve on the Pacific or even the Northern Fleet."

As expected, that day at 6:30 Moscow time, the second People's Veche of Sevastopol residents was held on Nakhimov Square; and whereas, as we reported, between 6,000 and 8,000 people took part in the first veche, now the attendance level was between 1,000 and 1,200.

The veche adopted an appeal to the Supreme Soviet and the president of the Russian Federation demanding to "enshrine in the Russian Federation Constitution a provision on Sevastopol's federal status as a city of republican jurisdiction on a par with Moscow and St. Petersburg." It was decided to step up the collection of signatures in support of the Sevastopol residents' demand that this provision be included in the Russian constitution. The Veche participants supported the idea of the indivisibility of the Black Sea Fleet. Aleksandr Kruglov, chairman of the National Salvation Front Sevastopol committee and Crimean deputy, said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent and Dutch journalists: "We feel Russia's support. Behind us is the majority of Black Sea Fleet servicemen. Behind us is the entire might of Russia. Russia is 21 times stronger than Ukraine. These are official calculations; and we, the residents of Sevastopol and Crimea, will overcome Ukrainian national separatists, but, unfortunately, with blood being shed."

Meanwhile, a group of Sevastopol residents staged a protest against the Veche by sitting on the sidewalk in front of it. Many were holding placards: "I Am Sick of This Clownery," "Give Peace to This Land," "Sevastopol Will Never Become a City of Madmen," and "I Do Not Want to See Another Karabakh Here."

National Salvation Front members tried to chase these people away but were prevented by city police. In the end they were supported by some of those who had arrived for the Veche. Captain 2d Rank Viktor Vasilyev said: "Kruglov and his associates are out for blood. They do not like the fact that the situation in the city is calm and

peaceful. I, like many Russian citizens living in Sevastopol, believe that the problems of the city and the Black Sea Fleet should be decided not at public rallies and people's veches, but by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine."

The Veche continued for slightly more than an hour. In the end, people began to disperse, and some 100 to 150 remained in the square. Some Sevastopol residents are pinning their hopes on the upcoming meeting between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, although the majority do not believe in its favorable outcome. In the meantime, reliable sources report that to make preparations for the presidents' meeting, a special group of highly-placed and qualified officers and admirals was created under the Ukrainian naval command. They are drafting documents and proposals by the Ukrainian side. According to some reports, the meeting of the two presidents will take place in early September, not later than 14 September, at one of the state dachas in Mukhalatka, which is part of greater Yalta.

Many believe that the two presidents will make a decision to set up an interim joint Black Sea Fleet command including representatives of both Russia and Ukraine. A transitional period will be finally determined during which the Black Sea Fleet will be divided in half. In the future, both fleets—Russian and Ukrainian—will be based in Sevastopol. Observers believe that this decision would to a certain extent satisfy both Ukraine and Russia. In any event, however, it would hardly be possible to pacify the leaders of the Sevastopol committee of the National Salvation Front and other pro-Russian movements and parties in the city. They will continue to demand that the city be returned to Russian jurisdiction and that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's decree "On the Status of the City of Sevastopol" be strictly implemented.

Two Admirals Added to Delegation for Russian Talks

AU1108155893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Naval Forces Get More Admirals"]

[Text] As was revealed by sources close to Ukraine's Naval Forces command, the group of high-ranking and skilled officers who will discuss Ukrainian proposals at the Russian and Ukrainian summit has recently been reinforced by Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkaravaynyy, recently transferred from the Naval Fleet of the Russian Federation, and Mykola Klitnyy, recalled from the reserves by order of Ukraine's minister of defense. This move was not denied at the Ministry of Defense. Therefore, five admirals already serve in Ukraine's Naval Forces: In addition to the aforementioned two, there is also the commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces Vice Admiral Borys Kozhyn, his deputy Rear Admiral Mykola Kostrov, and chief of the Sevastopol Naval Institute Rear Admiral Viktor Makarov.

Cabinet Clarifies Position on Economic Union

WS1208084793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The press secretary of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers issued a statement today clarifying the position of the Ukrainian Government and its leader on the creation of an economic commonwealth with a number of CIS countries. The document noted that some political figures and the media, whether intentionally or not, falsify actions by the Cabinet of Ministers and its leader who signed a declaration in support of such a commonwealth. They describe the prime minister's activities as his personal position which supposedly contradicts the state political line and the Ukrainian interests. Especially high emotions were raised around this issue through the publication of a flawed working draft that was merely a proposal of the Russian Federation.

In this connection, the government's press secretary emphasized that moves taken by the prime ministers to deepen economic integration directly are a direct implementation of the government's obligations incorporated in the declaration of the CIS countries and signed by their presidents on 14 May. In addition, Leonid Kuchma signed only a declaration, which is a non-binding document. The press secretary also recalled that the Ukrainian prime minister repeatedly stated that he would sign no document contradicting the interests of the Ukrainian people or ignoring the sovereignty of our state.

UNSO Soldiers' Involvement in Georgia, Dniester Assessed

MK1108100493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 33, 15 Aug 93 (Signed to press 10 Aug 93) p A10

[Sergey Tikhiy report: "Where Is One to Raise a Patriot?"]

[Text] Volunteers, members of the right-wing nationalist Ukrainian National Self-Defense (UNSO)—a paramilitary organization of the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA)—have been fighting for nearly one month on the side of Georgia. To date, their losses are four killed and nearly 20 wounded. UNSO chiefs explain participation of their subordinates in the Georgian-Abkhazian war: "This blood has been shed for freedom and independence of Ukraine. By helping Georgia repel Russia's aggression, we prevent Russia from unleashing a full-scale war against Ukraine." If expanded, this proposition amounts to a strategic directive: "In order that no blood be shed in Ukraine, war should be waged outside of it." After the UNSO fighters took part last year in the Dniester conflict, they also tried to flex their muscles in Ukraine. Their detachments attempted to storm the Kiev-Pecherskaya Lavra monastery in May 1992 when it became the residence of Metropolitan Vladimir, head of

the "pro-Moscow" Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Although the UNSO escapades scored no points at home, decorations were showered on its members from abroad. A UNSO group was awarded the "Defender of the Dniester Region" medal. Recently, Georgia's Defense Ministry recommended that between 10 and 15 UPSD members receive state decorations. Eduard Shevardnadze thanked the Ukrainians fighting on Georgia's side.

The UNSO, declaring last year that ethnic Ukrainians should be protected, fought on the Dniester Republic's side together with Russia. Today, UNSO heads stress in all their statements that they are fighting in Abkhazia to beat off "Russian aggression."

UNSO commanders' reports from the theater of military operations refer to the enemy in terms none other than "Moscow units" of the "Muskies" ["Moskali"—disparaging Ukrainian term for Russians].

How do the Ukrainian authorities relate to the fact that its citizens are involved in a conflict from which Ukraine has officially dissociated itself?

Although this July the Ukrainian parliament ratified an international convention on preventing recruitment, use, financing, and training of mercenaries, the Ukrainian penal code still lacks an article providing for corresponding punishment. The only area where the authorities are consistent is in refusing to officially register the UNSO. In so doing, however, they are pretending that there are no paramilitary structures within rightist organizations.

It would seem that in this situation, the UNSO should be the subject of special attention by the Ukrainian Security Service. But this organization is keeping a very low profile. Moreover, Major General Vasiliy Horbatyuk, Ukrainian Security Service chief in Lvov Oblast, admonishes in an open letter: "Do you really think that by sending mercenaries to fight on foreign fronts you can raise them as true patriots of Ukraine?..." A UNA leader has stated that the next stage of their activity "will be the creation of a 'hot spot' on the territory of Russia; moreover, with the hands of the Don Cossacks..."

Persuasion has little effect.

The Ukrainian authorities are inactive just as their Russian colleagues were inactive. Is it not Russian citizens who make up the core of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples' detachments? Perhaps the authorities need extremists as a graphic example to show law-abiding citizens who would be "on top" if the present leadership is denied confidence.

Report on Russian Use of Chemical Weapons

LD1108161193 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 11 Aug—Three wounded soldiers of the Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNSO] have arrived in Kiev from the area of combat action of the Georgian-Abkhazian war. In an interview for a UNIAR correspondent, they reported on the use of chemical weapons by Russian military subunits, who are fighting on Abkhazia's side.

The quantitative superiority of the Russians soldiers over those of Abkhazian nationality, in the opinion of the Ukrainian National Self Defense, shows that the Russian army in this region is not a peacemaking one. Since the beginning of combat actions with the participation of Ukrainian National Self Defence subunits, four Ukrainian soldiers have died and 14 have been wounded.

National Affairs

Parties, Trade Unions Favor Holding Referendum

LD1108160093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Gordeyeva]

[Text] Donetsk, August 11 (TASS)—A consultative meeting of heads of independent trade unions and chiefs of the Ukrainian Civic Congress, of Liberal Socialists, Communist Party and Party of Labour was held at the Donetsk Regional Centre of Independent Industrial Unions. Attitude to the Ukrainian referendum was discussed in a new aspect. The central commission of the Ukrainian referendum, making a reference to the presidium of the parliament, actually stopped preparation for its holding. Those present at the meeting declared that the referendum should be held within the preset timeframe. Trade union leaders supported a statement of the Party of Labour about the need to create an economic union of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Civic Congress today issued a statement assessing the failure to hold a referendum as a serious error of the authorities that be can lead to unpredictable consequences or as a deliberate provocation of the reactionary forces interested in destabilising the situation. It is noted in the statement that mass protests of the working people in June were dampened mainly by the decision to hold the referendum.

Rukh Leader Demands New Elections

LD1108200893 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 11 Aug—"Since the Supreme Council has obstructed the holding of the referendum, it should immediately set a date for elections to the parliament," opposition leader Vyacheslav Chornovil told a RUKH-PRESS correspondent. "If deputies are going to delay, then the united democratic forces—parties and trade unions—should demand that new elections be set, employing the most resolute measures," the head of Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] continued. Vyacheslav Chornovil is convinced that

attempts to replace the referendum on confidence in the authorities with a plebiscite on ways of developing the state will not influence Rukh's position and will not save the Supreme Council from preterm elections.

Civic Congress Calls For Kravchuk Resignation, Spring Elections

LD1108221893 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1921 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev—On 11 August the Civic Congress of Ukraine adopted an statement in which it underlined that the actions by the central election commission which halted preparations for the referendum "contradict the decisions of the session of the Supreme Council as of 17 June and, actually, are an act of sabotage. These actions are part of the campaign on discrediting the referendum launched by the presidential structures and the Supreme Council Presidium." The Civic Congress proposes that the Ukrainian president immediately resign, that the rotation of the Supreme Council Presidium and the central election commission be carried, and the Supreme Council be re-elected next spring. The Civic Congress of Ukraine considers that the treaty on economic union with Russia and Belarus should be signed immediately as the first step within the framework of the new political course.

Donbass Organizations Support 'Liquidation' of Presidency

LD1108220193 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1921 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Donetsk—On 13 August a meeting of the initiative group "Referendum-93" is to take place in Donetsk. The organizers of this event are the Civic Congress of Ukraine, the Movement for the Revival of Donbass, Intermovement, the Socialist Party of Ukraine, and the city miners' strike committee. They are planning to set up a group on holding the referendum and register it at the central election commission with the right to collect signatures for a preterm termination of the plenary powers of the president and for the liquidation of the very institution of the Ukrainian presidency.

Declining Financial System Detailed

PM1208094793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Gennadiy Kondaurov and Li Din Khvan]

[Text] [Kondaurov] In the period since the June strikes the position of Ukraine's financial system and economy has deteriorated sharply. Production has slumped in a month by as much as it had previously in a year. According to figures from the national bank, the amount of money issued over the past month is equivalent to half of all the money in circulation. The karbovanets continues to fall sharply against the ruble and the dollar. Gasoline is already selling at twice the world price in parts of Ukraine. The government has recently decided to increase wholesale prices by up to 50 percent for gas and electricity, and by 150 percent for coal. So further price rises for foodstuffs and goods are inevitable, even though yesterday's Cabinet of Ministers session did not go that far. Miners, metalworkers, and people in other industries believe that the wage increases gained after the last strikes will still not be able to match the cost of living. The financial and economic position of mines and other enterprises has deteriorated sharply. Economists are uncommonly united in their belief that Ukraine's financial system has collapsed and that the karbovanets has ceased to function as a currency.

Deputy Views 'Catastrophic' Condition of Privatization, Agriculture

LD1108174493 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1443 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—At a news conference on the premises of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 11 August, Andriy Pecherov, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Planning, Budget, Finance, and Prices, described the situation in Ukraine as "critical and catastrophic," in particular in the sphere of privatization, the concept of which he does not entirely share, and in the agro-industrial complex, where he predicts an increase in prices for agricultural products in the near future. To questions from correspondents regarding rumors concerning the withdrawal of the coupon-karbovanets from circulation, Andriy Pecherov stated that he does not see the conditions for this now, as there is not the required stabilization fund. In addition, he cited Ukraine's negative trading balance with Russia—2.8 trillion karbovantsi as of 1 August.

Commission Chief Condemns Government, Bank on Reform Measures

PM1108110093 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Golub report: "'Vivisection'"]

[Text] The actions of the premier, the ministers of the present cabinet, and the leadership of the National Bank of Ukraine have come under harsh criticism from Volodymyr Pylypchuk, chairman of the republic's parliamentary commission on questions of economic reform and management of the national economy.

"The longer this government goes on, the less hope there is of its succeeding in implementing reforms. The situation will change for the better in our main financial institution only when we replace its entire leadership," he stated at a press conference. In a civilized society, which every republic of the former Union so obsessively aspires to, before they lay the patient on the operating table they make a point of informing him about the operation's chances of success and ask his consent for the surgical intervention. Which you certainly cannot say for

the country's marketeers, who have acquired by the back door the status of "surgeons" and are mercilessly practicing on millions of living people. The desire of those in power to postpone to a later date the all-Ukraine referendum planned for September, or even to cancel it altogether, is no coincidence.

Procurator's Office Notes Tendency To Evade Military Duty

AU1208060393 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 10 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "I Will Serve if I Wish So"]

[Text] The Procurator General's Office has summed up the results of an investigation into how Ukraine's law "On General Military Duty and Military Service" is being observed. It was revealed that this law is being observed quite unsatisfactorily.

In particular, evasions of military service, failure to report for military registration at enlistment offices, unauthorized departure from induction stations, and so on, have become more common than ever before. However, it is in extremely rare cases that the judicial authorities raise the question of instituting criminal proceedings against such persons. No wonder general military service becomes "general" only for a third of the total number of young people of call-up age, something that is also being stimulated by the shortcomings in the current legislation.

Belarus

Minsk Deputy Mayor Describes Economic Progress

LD1108200293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1928 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By a BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 11 TASS—Deputy Mayor Petr Nikitenko has called the Belarusian capital an "island of stability" at a press conference held here today.

Nikitenko noted that the city has not reduced production during the past seven months in comparison with the same period of 1992, but on the contrary, has maintained a growth rate of 4.5 per cent. He named tractor, automobile and engine plants among the largest establishments which are working better than others under market economy conditions.

The deputy mayor said that this Shatalin is attracting western investors. In particular, registration documents have already been prepared for one of the largest joint Belarusian-American enterprise which will set up a technical depot in the Belarusian capital. The American side has earmarked about a billion dollars for this purpose, he said.

Nikitenko told journalists that the population of Minsk has not only registered growth in July during its entire post-World War II history, but its death rate has also been reduced by half a thousand people. According to him, this is related with immigration of Minsk residents to other former republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union to settle down there permanently.

Slav Assembly Protests Anti-Russian Bias of Media

PM1108150193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Oleg Stepanenko report: "Airtime and Press Are Not For Elite"]

[Text] Minsk—The Duma of the "Belaya Rus" Slav Assembly has sharply protested the transformation of the state mass media into the mouthpiece of sociopolitical groups seeking to fuel enmity between the fraternal Belarusian and Russian peoples.

"Belaya Rus" is proposing to reorganize the Ministry of Information after assigning the state radio company to an autonomous department and ensure equal regular access to airtime for all sociopolitical organizations. On the basis of the results of numerous sociological studies, which show that the overwhelming majority of the population (over 70 percent) support state bilingualism, the Duma of the Slav Assembly demanded that television and radio airtime be shared equally between the Belarusian and Russian languages.

Poll Shows 60 Percent Against Joining NATO

MK1208081593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Minsk—The sociological service of the "Eridan" publishing corporation conducted a survey among citizens of the Republic of Belarus to find out what they think about Belarus joining military blocs. Out of 1,448 polled, 60 percent were against Belarus joining NATO, 23 percent were in favor, and 12 percent gave no opinion. [figures as published] Seventy-five percent of the respondents would like Belarus to join the EEC, some 15 percent were against joining, and 10 percent did not know. Nearly 56 percent of the polled approve of the possible creation of a "northern belt"—a military-political and financial-economic union of the G-7 countries, as well as Belarus, Russia, and Poland.

Foreign Ministry To Assign Military Attaches to Embassies

PM1208095193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Valeriy Kovalev report under "From Our Newsdesk" rubric: "Military Personnel To Feature Among Belarusian Diplomats"]

[Text] Minsk—The Belarusian Foreign Ministry is instituting the post of military attache. This was reported by Petr Kravchanka, head of the republic foreign policy department, in a speech at a conference of Republic of Belarus ambassadors and official representatives abroad.

The first Belarusian military attaches will start work at Belarusian embassies in Poland, Germany, Britain, and Russia in the very near future.

Moldova

Sangheli Interviewed on Privatization, Opposition

OW1108182393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli by "Utro" correspondent Mikhay Sokirke to mark the first anniversary of the coalition government's formation; time and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, it is generally known that privatization is the central element of the government's economic reforms. What has your government been able to achieve over the past year?

[Sangheli] I would say that we have achieved quite a lot in that respect, if we note the preparatory stage. First, to bring all documentation up to the juridical standard that is so necessary today, and to have parliament adopt practically all the laws necessary to carry out the first

phase of small privatization. In practical terms, beginning in August, the government will begin the first stage of privatization in the agricultural economy, in the entire housing complex—particularly in the cities—and naturally, in the trade and small industrial enterprises. That is the first stage. The second stage will naturally be privatization of large enterprises. I talk a lot and people could challenge my claims that a lot has been done. I have been strongly criticized by the opposition, as everywhere else, that change is too slow, that too little has been done. If something is being done slowly, it is being done with the confidence that we are following the course which will not backfire or create chaos.

[Reporter] Are they hoping for an instant result?

[Sangheli] Yes, an instant result and to score cheap political points.

[Reporter] Andrei Nikolayevich, you mentioned the opposition. Indeed, you became the prime minister at a very complicated and difficult time. That is really why you are being hit from the left and the right; is there any basis for this?

[Sangheli] Well, there is certainly a definite basis for this. We need not be surprised by the fact that they are attacking from the left and the right today. Forces have surfaced—let us say they are wholesome ones— who, as it should be, constructively criticize us at a time when we, as a society, are advancing towards the unknown. In the final analysis, nobody really knows what we want, what we will receive, or where we are going. However, there is another side of criticism and opposition which, to put it mildly, is not constructive and which is simply dying to get the power to realize their own group ambitions or political aims and emotions. This is the element to whom explaining that they cannot act in this way as a matter of principle is quite a complicated process. However this, as they say, is just a matter of time.

[Reporter] Not only to explain it to them but to get them to agree to it, right? A final question...

[Sangheli interrupting] One cannot agree with them in anyway, because they are unrealistic. The degree of our success is dependent on how successful we are at being realistic in resolving all problems. Whether we like the answer or not, I want to ask this question; who was the root of all evil? All the governments of the former Soviet Union and the former socialist camp were! Everywhere, parliaments are fighting with the governments and everywhere, the opposition believes that the government is not doing anything. Ultimately, government everywhere is the workhorse that is carrying everything on its shoulders today, because there is no other solution.

[Reporter] Andrei Nikolayevich, one final question?

[Sangheli] Go ahead.

[Reporter] What would Andrei Sangheli the man, not the prime minister, like most of all today?

[Sangheli] All of us would like many things, but the main thing that I would like, as the prime minister and as the man, is to preserve the year old peace, albeit a fragile peace, which has been restored to Moldovan soil and which allows people of all nationalities the opportunity to work and create. And so, in 1993, our forecasts are at least turning out as we predicted a year ago. In 1993, there is also a feeling that people have found the path to real life and reality. I would like this reality to strengthen, to become more entrenched, and to continue on the path of those reforms which have given us the opportunity to come out of this blind alley, this poverty, which unfortunately came crashing down on our heads.

[Reporter] One final question in the same context. You have been one of those people, one of those leaders, who have always fought to achieve civil peace. You have chaired and headed various commissions, but you have never said much. To what degree are you satisfied with your own work, the work of the government, and the leadership as a whole?

[Sangheli] The task that faced the government during the first phase,—not only when I became the prime minister but I was also working on it before that—was this very basic issue: To force everyone to do everything in their power to ensure that the weapons fell silent and that people cease to shoot at each other. We were able to achieve this despite all kinds of criticism and if there is anything to be proud of today, it is the fact that we have been able to stop this conflict and to build a platform to afford politicians the opportunity to continue their work. However, at this point we are not satisfied... [pauses] if one approaches it from the other point of view, any economy can only work when it has a calm space and certain tranquility. Right now it is necessary for politicians to decide the second phase. I think that together we will do everything possible to ensure that the republic again becomes the unified republic it was several years ago.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Parliament Speaker Comments on Dniester, Romania

PM1108103793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Interview with Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinschi by Aleksandr Milkus; date, place not given: "My Son Plays for Spartak, But I Am Not Going To Moscow. Moldovan Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinschi Answers Our Correspondent's Questions"]

[Text] [Milkus] Petru Kirillovich, for starters let us decide how to address you now—Comrade, Mr., or Domnul.

[Lucinschi] As you please. But in principle we use the official title "Domnul"—Mr.

[Milkus] Well then, Domnul Lucinschi.... You lost the Moldovan presidential election to your former Moldovan Communist Party colleague, M. Snegur. Today you are once again at the apex of power and are continuing to score points by actively engaging in politics. People say that Snegur has taken offense, believing that you are taking the initiative away from him. Are you preparing revenge?

[Lucinschi] I see and analyze what happens in other countries. Any campaign-related actions at a time when an election is still far off (our parliamentary elections are to be held in 1995) only increase confrontation in society. In Moldova today the situation is such that it is time to cast aside personal ambition.

In Moldova there is no confrontation between the three top officials or the three branches of power, as there is in other republics.

[Milkus] I think that your return to big-time politics is in many respects due to the conflict over the Dniester region. When it became clear that agreement could not be reached by military means with Tiraspol and the Russian Army at its back, the Moldovan leadership needed a man whom, on the one hand, the Dniester region leaders would trust more and, on the other hand, whom Moscow could rely on in its policy. Now, with your return to power, Russia has a chance to influence Moldova's policy via Chisinau.

[Lucinschi] I by no means reduce everything to subjective factors alone. Although in politics trust in a particular individual does mean a great deal. But there are also objective processes which one man alone cannot overcome.

I have certainly done a great deal of work in Moscow and everyone knows that I have many friends and acquaintances there. But many people fail to realize that Moscow and Russia have changed now. And there are people here in the localities who view some of Russia's actions as infringing on Moldova's interests. That is a mistake. There too everything is changing, and there too they are seeking their own paths of development.

I above all represent my state. The main thing distinguishing the Dniester region from the situation in other conflict regions is the fact that it is not an interethnic conflict, a conflict between Moldavians or Romanians and Russians and Ukrainians. There are representatives of all these nationalities living on both banks. The whole problem is political. And the reality here cannot be disregarded. People in the Dniester region are saying that acceptance of their terms—the proclamation of Moldova as a confederation—is the only way of resolving the issue. They fail to consider that this conflict should be resolved with the consent of all society.

[Milkus] Don't you think that the stalemate situation in resolving the question of the Dniester region's status may turn into another war?

[Lucinschi] Provocations are possible. There are people who balk at nothing. The closer we are to resolving this question, the more active the extremist groups.

People ask us: Are we a state or not? There are some features and legislation that must be observed. But on our territory we have a republic that no one has recognized, with its own customs service, border guards, and army.

But for all that I rule out military conflict as a means of resolving the Dniester region problem.

[Milkus] Chisinau is doing a great deal today toward integration with Romania. How feasible is the unification of the two states?

[Lucinschi] Each state wants autonomy. A normal economy is needed for that, as well as the normalization of people's lives. Moldova has the opportunity to do that. Look, we have a developed industry—we make everything, ranging from socks and hats to construction materials. We certainly have the chance of becoming an agrarian state. But we do not what to be anyone's appendage, even Russia.

As for Romania.... It is natural for us to want to have much contact with a state with which we share language, culture, and history. That is why we are pursuing a policy of specific actions with Romania by mutual agreement.

We must abandon the cliches. Previously everyone used to go to Moscow. Now some people go to Bucharest. What of it? This is motivated by interest and necessity.

Today the idea of unification is being used more to increase confrontation and discredit our state. It is too early to speak of real unification.

[Milkus] Snegur's recent statement on national television mentioned the fact that many economically important decisions are being held up in parliament....

[Lucinschi] Regrettably, parliament is a fairly slow-moving mechanism in all countries. We do not have a clear parliamentary majority at the moment. It is therefore hard to implement certain laws. And friction arises.

[Milkus] As far as I know, you still have an apartment in Moscow. Is it not an "emergency airfield" enabling you to keep calm in the event of any serious problems?

[Lucinschi] No, on the contrary, I hope that my son will come here to Chisinau. He is a master of sport and plays for Spartak. My other, older son has already made his decision—he works in Moscow, he is a linguist. Moving to Moscow is impossible for me. There was a time when I might have moved to Moscow, when it was the same country. But now I am in my own country.

Snegur Seeks Dissolution of Parliament, New Elections

AU1108200093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/8/1993—President of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, declared today to deputies that he pleads for a disband of Parliament and anticipated elections on a basis of a new legislation regarding elections. President Snegur made this declaration after deputies had not succeeded in taking a decision concerning the further activity of the legislative body during the morning sitting. Formerly, deputy Zosim Bodiu, read out a Declaration by Agrarian Parliamentary faction which stated that representatives of the majority faction leave Parliament without deposing their mandates. Under circumstances when Parliamentary crisis had not been resolved, Petru Lucinschi, President of Parliament, proposed two ways of solving it. First: Presidium of Parliament will continue to act solely during the period of time when deliberate session are not held and it will propose a referendum concerning the problem of anticipated elections to the electorate. Second: Parliament will meet at an ordinary session in autumn in order to adopt several laws of vital importance for Moldova, amongst which a law regarding anticipated elections. Deputies did not choose any of these options, but started debates on further activity of Parliament. Parliamentarians agreed to dispute a law regarding, the budget and also to return to resolutions proposed by the speaker during the second half of the day.

Deputies Comment on Parliamentary Debate on CIS, Elections

AU1108184393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/8/1993—The today's parliamentary session started two hours later than usual. This happened after the chairman Petru Lucinschi said he would postpone the session for meeting at that time. This ultimatum did work, and the session began. Deputy Zosim Bodiu said on behalf of the group "Viata Satului" (Life of Village) that the Parliament was exhausted and the crises in Parliament caused the crisis in the society. Bodiu blamed the Christian Democratic People's Front [FPCD] for the crisis. FPCD "proved to be incompetent: It intends to part Dniester from Moldova and force Moldova's link to Romania," he stated. If the Parliament works on, "this will only hurt," as opposition blocks its activity. Bodiu said the majority would leave the Parliament. He also insisted on the approval of the law on new elections. The group "Soglasiye-Conciliere" (Conciliation) made the same declaration. Its representative stated that the non-ratification of the CIS Agreement had badly hurt the people. He added that the voting was not secret, as TV reporters could have access to it. The "Conciliere-Soglasiye" fraction demanded a nominal re-voting of the CIS Agreement. It also demanded to approve the law on elections immediately and announce the date of anticipate elections. Alexandru Buruiana, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for External Ties, spoke on behalf of "Independentii" [the independents], supporting the above mentioned declarations. He stated that "Independentii" will attend the sessions only if the Parliament votes for the law on elections. Alexandru Arseni, head of the Democratic Party of Labor, charged the Moldovan leadership to have used part of the deputies for its political interests. Arseni believes that the Constitution allows the dissolution of Parliament only if every deputy personally refuses his mandate.

Democrats Appeal to U.S., EC

AU1108155793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1402 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 11/8/1993—By its deputies' free vote, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova rejected the ratification of the agreement of setting up the Commonwealth of Independent States and the acts that followed that document. reads the appeal addressed by the deputies representing parties and organizations of democratic orientation to the countries of European Community, the U.S.A. and Canada, MOLDOVA PRESS reports.

The option of the Republic of Moldova's Parliament is in harmony with the provisions of the declaration of independence, a document based on which your countries' governments recognized the Republic of Moldova as a sovereign and independent state.

The conservative, pro-Moscow forces, the appeal reads, have taken the turning down of the CIS agreement for a reason to destabilize the socio-political situation in the Republic of Moldova, starting actions meant to lead to the parliament's dissolution, triggering a campaign of intimidation of the democratically oriented parties and socio-political movements.

A victim of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, just like Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the Republic of Moldova shook off the Soviet colonial yoke on August 27, 1991, when the parliament endorsed the declaration of independence. The legislative framework required for the implementation of the economic reforms and parties and socio-political organizations representing the specific interests of various social groups came into being over 1990-1993.

All these processes, the appeal reads, have occurred against the background of the struggle against pro-communist and pro-imperial forces that oppose the democratic reforms. Sustained by decision-makers, these forces have managed to procrastinate the privatization, also stimulating the processes of illegal appropriation of the state property, have instituted censorship with the national television and other mass media, stifling the democratic press through economic and financial means.

The anti-democratic line, that has started prevailing lately in the Republic of Moldova, is sustained and directed by the pro-imperial and conservative forces in the Russian Federation. With their political, economic and propaganda support, secessionist, anti constitutional republics were set up in the Eastern and Southern districts of the Republic of Moldova. The Republic of Moldova's Eastern part is currently occupied by the 14th Army of the Russian Federation.

Unable to cope wit the situation generated by the growing economic and political crisis, the executive power of the Republic of Moldova is yielding to pressures put up from inside and from outside, coming now to question the very statal independence of the Republic of Moldova.

Under the circumstances, we ask the parliaments and governments of your countries to sustain the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova that has embarked upon the way of actual eradication of the consequences of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and of the Soviet occupation, to give separate and special treatment to the Republic of Moldova, really supporting it within bilateral relations to the end of the implementation of the democratic economic and political reforms, reads the appeal released by MOLDOVA PRESS.

Opposition Criticizes Parliament Session

AU1108184193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 10/8/1993—During the press conference organised by opposition groups after the suspension of the extraordinary session, Alexandru Mosanu the president of the Congress of Intellectuals declared that the session had been held in total chaos and as a result ended without any reasonable decisions concerning the present social-economic situation in the republic. Mosanu expressed that this point was programed by the Government. In the opinion of Vasile Nedelciuc, the deputy of Parliament, Romania hadn't expressed any official attitude towards the present events in the Republic of Moldova to avoid accusations of interfering in the internal affairs of Moldova. Another motive presupposed by Nedelciuc is the following: Romanian Government is well informed about the spirit of high dignitaries from Chisinau who demonstrated it by delaying approving the agreement of friendship between those two states. Gheorghe Ghimpu, the president of Democratic Party declared that the Parliament had been already saved and the legislative crisis overcome.

Parliamentary Minority's Actions Criticized

AU1108184593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/8/1993—The parliamentary minority wants nothing else than keep the Parliament forever, stated Nicolae Andronic, head of the group "Independentii" [the independents] at a yesterday's TV broadcast. Andronic said the parliament cannot even take a decision and, moreover, approve the new constitution. "The faking behavior of various groups provoked the crises in Parliament," Andronic believes. The CIS Agreement is a way to increase independence, as "now we have no markets to sell our good; we cannot penetrate Western markets. The best way was the one proposed by the executive," stated Andronic.

Trade, Inflation Statistics Reported

AU1108184293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 10/8/1993—The forced purchase of food, the price soar and the deficit of goods in the commercial network have reduced the sales in the first half of 1993. This way, the sale of TV sets, fridges and skin shoes decreased with 33-66 percent; radio devices, ready-made clothes and matches, with 18-32 percent. This information came from the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA (Independent Moldova), which quoted the department of statistics. In 6 months of 1993, Moldova had economic relations with 50 countries, compared to 28 in the first half of 1992. The basic economic partners of Moldova are still Romania (34.4 percent of Moldova's external trade), Germany (15.8 percent) and Bulgaria (6.8 percent), the newspaper states. According to the officials, the average inflation level in the first half of 1993 was 24.5 percent monthly. Inflation reached now 268 percent, compared to December 1992. An average salary is 12,600 rubles in Moldova, 26,600 rubles in Belarus, and 37,700 in Russia. A Moldovan can only buy 40 percent of the meat a Russian can buy (or 24 percent a Belarusian can buy). The same way, a Moldovan can buy, respectively, 26 percent and 32 percent of butter, 22 percent and 21 percent of sugar, 79 percent and 35 percent of bread, 14 percent and 33 percent of potatoes, the newspaper says.

Officials Comment on Economy, Trade With Russia

AU1108190593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 9/8/1993—It seems that the production fall will not finish this year in Moldova. In seven months of 1993, the produced national income reduced by some 20 percent. The external debt exceeds 82 billion rubles. Premier Andrei Sangheli stated at the extraordinary parliamentary session that "analysed generally, the situation of the national economy is still bad," but there are "some improvements which give us hope." Sergiu Certan, minister of economy, recently stated that he hoped Moldova's economy will rise in the third quarter of 1993. Certan said "Moldova is at the beginning of stabilization" and "a 20-25 percent rise of industrial production, compared to 1992, will be already reached in August." Mihai Patras, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Financial and Banking

Problems, contrary to the minister of economy, stated that "this stabilization is an illusion, though the industry recorded some increases." According to deputy Alexandru Aresnie, leader of the Democratic Party of Labour, "the Government's economic policy is unwelcome for this moment; the Government fulfills its functions insufficiently and without responsibility." After such controversial opinions, the exaggerated optimism of the Government is obvious. One can have the impression that the method of the 1980s is applied, when the aggravation of the people's life could damage the image of the USSR. To avoid this, wrong statistics used to be published.

The official denunciation of the CIS by Parliament could have a most unpredictable outcome, though, analysts do not have a common opinion on this. Some of them, mostly CIS adepts, say that certain sanctions, hidden or frank, will be used for Moldova. Others believe the failing Russian economy itself will make rather unexpected surprises. According to the statistics, the sales of fuel from CIS countries to Moldova was only 22 percent of the amount fixed by inter-governmental agreements. Moldova also fulfilled only 30 percent of its contracts. However, local observers notice some attempts to block direct relations between Moldova and Russia. The Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated to REUTER that CIS economic partners had suffered after the CIS Agreement was not ratified. Andrei Diaconu, prime vice minister of economy, a leader of the majority parliamentary group of agrarians, stated that Russia will apply several supplementary taxes in the trade with Moldova. Nevertheless, economic analysts stress that Moscow authorities made no official statements on the non-ratification of the CIS Agreement; they will not be harsh with Moldova until October, when a summit meeting will debate the creation of an economic union.

Exchange of Russian Rubles Described

AU1108195993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/8/1993—Since 2 August, the "Giunea" [name as received] exchange office is legally selling and buying "Russian national currency", i.e. rubles emitted in 1993, states today DNEVNOY EKSPRESS (Daily Express). The Moldovan National Bank allowed to do so using rules for hard currency. The sale of Russian ruble will extend and grow, the article says. Last week, rubles were much required in the "black market"; thus, the rate between ruble and coupon had grown. On 6 August, the "Giunea" exchange office bought 1,000 rubles for 1,380 Moldovan coupons. The sale rate was 1,000 rubles for 1,480 coupons. This way, the Russian ruble is higher by some 25

than the coupon. If national currency is introduced, a period of instability is natural, so the investment of hard currency is justified, states the daily. Lately, a U.S. dollar was sold at 1,550 coupons, and a German mark at 910 coupons. The "Giunea" office recently bought 100 rubles for 135 coupons and sold it for 143 coupons, states DNEVNOY EKSPRESS, quoting the financial magazine LOGOS PRESS.

Kazakhstan

Negotiations Begin With Russia on Monetary Reform

LD1108185793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1835 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Amangeldiy Akhmetaliyev]

[Text] Almaty August 11 TASS—Russian Central Bank head Viktor Gerashchenko and head of the Russian State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the Commonwealth Member-States Vladimir Mashchits arrived here today in fulfilment of a statement of the Russian, Kazakh and Uzbek presidents of August 7 in Moscow in connection with the termination of circulation on Russian territory of 1961-1992-model banknotes of the Russian State Bank and the Bank of Russia.

The meetings at the Kazakh Government and National Bank discussed aspects of the creation of a Kazakh-Russian monetary system to use the rouble—the currency of the Russian Federation.

The sides discussed, in particular, the general concept of the creation of a new type rouble zone and settled the problem of urgent cash delivery to Kazakhstan to pay wages, salaries, allowances and scholarships. The meetings focused on accelerated measures to settle non-trade payments, whose violation may negatively tell on the interests of the population.

The Russian side supported the Kazakh request to allocate to the Kazakh National Bank 1993-model banknotes.

The sides discussed the efficient functioning of the single monetary system, with due account of a possibility of the introduction of national currencies in Commonwealth states within the context of the creation of the economic union.

They reached an agreement to continue negotiations in Moscow to prepare a special agreement on the above-mentioned issues.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev is expected to receive Gerashchenko and Mashchits on Thursday [12 August].

Agreement Reached With Russia on Debt Settlement

LD1208105693 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0100 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Summary] Kazakhstan has admitted its debt of 247 billion rubles [R] to Russia for last year's transactions on correspondent accounts, and Russia in its turn is ready to consider R79 billion out of this sum as reimbursement for Russia's enterprises debt to Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev Calls for Expanded Ties With Russia's Border Regions

LD1008162193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 10 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin and KAZTAG correspondent Satybaldy Timeshev]

[Text] Uralsk (the Republic of Kazakhstan) August 10 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev met in Uralsk Monday [10 August] evening with the heads of the administrations of some border regions of the Russian Federation—the Orenburg, Saratov and Samara regions.

"Kazakhstan," the president told them, "regards its relations with Russia as a priority requirement. They will remain as such in the future, too. Any attempt to set the two neighbours at loggerheads, will be most resolutely rebuffed by both sides. An agreement on this score was reached in the course of my recent meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow."

"Neither shall we allow anybody to undermine stability in our republic, to split the people of Kazakhstan into indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants," he added. The president urged the leaders of Russia's border regions to actively establish and expand mutually beneficial direct economic relations with the neighbouring regions of Kazakhstan. "This can be done most successfully both by industrialists and farmers. The borders will always be open for such cooperation," Nazarbayev stressed.

Expressing the view of his colleagues, Konstantin Titov, head of the Samara regional administration, said that it became "freer to breathe" after the meeting between the Russian and Kazakh presidents. The neighbouring regions of Russia and Kazakhstan have been given a free hand. They now have real opportunities not only to restore the ruptured relations, but to develop new ones too".

Favors Cooperation With Former Republics

LD1108140393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1243 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin, KAZTAG correspondent Kairbek Yermukhanov]

[Text] Atyrau, Kazakhstan August 11 TASS—Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev declared for close cooperation with former Union republics and with foreign countries and above all with Russia. During a meeting with residents of the regional centre of Atyrau, formerly Guryev, where the president has been staying over the past two days, he said that during the recent meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow "possibilities for further cooperation and mutual advance in the economic area on this basis were discussed in detail".

The Kazakhstan president reported that "important agreements have been registered. For instance, money of the 1961-1992 issues will be legal in the Kazakhstan territory for at least two weeks, until the governments and central banks agree on further steps in this direction".

"I will not tire to repeat that we should always live in peace and accord with our powerful northern neighbour. Such is our history and our common destiny", the president said.

Foreign Ministry Appeals to Afghanistan To Free Border Guards

LD1108170493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty August 11—The Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry has appealed to Afghan authorities to assist in freeing an officer of the Kazakh battalion and four Russian frontier guards captured on the Tajik-Afghan border on Tuesday.

It was reported that a boundary guard detail including Russian and Kazakh military men came under fire from an armed group during its usual riding round along the Pamirs stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border on Tuesday.

The officer of the Kazakh battalion stationed in Tajikistan, Major Sergey Petukhov was among the five men captured and forcibly abducted to Afghan territory.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Receives Departing PRC Envoy

LD1108181393 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Summary] Today Serikbolsyn Abdildin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, received Huang Deguang, PRC ambassador to Kazakhstan, in connection with his departure for home. During the talks a wide range of topics was discussed, among which were the results of the visit to Kazakhstan by a PRC parliamentary delegation. Serikbolsyn Abdildin praised the work of the first Chinese ambassador to Kazakhstan very highly and wished him success in his future work.

Cabinet Discusses Harvesting, Grain Storage Problems

LD1108113693 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Urgent problems connected with harvesting in a number of the republic's regions and preparation for harvesting in the developed virgin lands were discussed at a 10 August sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers. Opening it, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko talked about his visit to West Kazakhstan and Kustanay Oblasts. He believes that the forecasted yield of the Oral area has been underestimated by mistake. The crop is good. Gross harvest of grain—wheat, rye, barley—will be at least two million tonnes. The situation was aggravated by the insufficient readiness to store the crop. Almost one million tonnes of threshed grain is still on the threshing floors.

The state has to be well aware of the amount of grain it can buy and store properly. Depending on the grain quality, the state should pay for it without delay. Unfortunately, the republic has limited possibilities for it yet. Russia is suspending credits. Kazakhstan has invested 1.3 trillion rubles in agriculture. Such debts are returned slowly. But the contracts should be fulfilled, and all grain stipulated by agreements has to be bought. The task is even broader: It is necessary to evacuate from far-away threshing floors not only the contracted amount of grain but all of it and to preserve it. The situation is such that Russia, our main consumer, has grown a very good crop. The world market has reacted to it already. The grain prices have sharply dropped by 20 percent. It would be more profitable to us if we store our grain for some time and sell it later. But it would be a mistake not to try to sell part of the grain now. The fact that many republics have withdrawn from the ruble zone should not be an impediment. They can pay by material and technical resources and easily sold or bartered goods.

Heads of the ministries and departments whose activity is connected with harvesting shared their opinions. They proposed to invite on a massive scale transportation workers from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tatarstan, and Bashkortostan who had already agreed to come, as well as labor from some bordering oblasts of Russia. This will successfully help with grain transportation in most oblasts. The importance of having a reserve of grain-carrying trains to keep a high pace in harvesting and speedy transportation of the crop was emphasized. But such a reserve does not yet exist. Instead of 140 railway cars, Russia allocates only 30 per day, and it is not worth hoping for better as Russia is also beginning massive harvesting. We should try to look for such railway cars in other CIS countries.

Additional measures are envisaged to supply farmers with fuel and lubricants for the period of massive harvesting. The problems in this field are timely payments to suppliers for fuel and rearrangement of debts of state and collective farms, which want to pay after they have gathered the crops and started selling new grain. Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko said that necessary measures had already been taken. The Kaznefteprodukt and Kazchleboprodukt concerns received new loans to provide the necessary resources and speed up the grain procurement. He demanded that all problems of sending transport means to northern oblasts should be tackled in the coming week, as well as the issuse of sending the necessary amount of drivers and combine operators. Deputy Prime Minister Asygat Zhabagin and Sergey Kulagin spoke at the sitting.

Tajikistan

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Continues Talks

LD1208110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 12 TASS—Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsala, now in Dushanbe on an official visit, highly praised his meeting on Thursday with Tajik parliament speaker Imamali Rakhmanov.

The minister stressed in an interview with journalists that "the meeting was held in a good and friendly atmosphere". "We hope for establishing friendly relations and for settling any problems which exist now", said the Afghan minister, adding that even this visit to Tajikistan is a sign of goodwill.

Turning to the ongoing Tajik-Afghan talks, Arsala said that they focus on the war in Tajikistan and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Dwelling at length on Afghanistan's role, he stressed that his country is ready to play any constructive role, about which Tajiks request in stopping the military conflict. "We hope to reach specific agreements," the minister continued.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the fate of the Russian and Kazakh servicemen taken as hostages on August 10 and now staying in Afghanistan, Arsala assured that, according to his information, they are in safety and expressed hope that the issue about their release would be settled.

ITAR-TASS has just learnt from a spokesman of Russian border troops in Tajikistan it is quite probable that the hostages will be transferred to the Tajik side later in the day at 14:30, local time.

The Afghan-Tajik talks will continue in the afternoon on Thursday [12 August].

Meets Rakhmanov

LD1208105593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0800 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 12 TASS—Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala continues his visit to Tajikistan. Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan Imamali Rakhmanov met him behind closed doors on Thursday morning.

After that, the Afghan foreign minister will continue negotiations with his Tajik counterpart Rashid Olimov. They will focus on the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border and preparations for a meeting between the Tajik and Afghan leaders.

The day before, the "KHOVAR" Tajik news agency quoted the Afghan foreign minister as saying during the talks with Olimov: "The official leadership of my country will not support either the armed units of Tajik opposition or the field commanders in northern Afghanistan who make provocations at the Tajik border."

Olimov Comments on Talks

PM1108172593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Karpov report incorporating interview with Tajik Foreign Minister R. Olimov 11 August in Dushanbe: "Border Guards Seized in Tajikistan Have Been Taken to Afghanistan"]

[Text] Dushanbe—Talks are continuing in Dushanbe between the heads of the foreign policy departments of Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The range of problems under discussion is determined by the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and by the return home of refugees from Afghanistan. In addition, the present meeting of the foreign ministers must be regarded as being in preparation for top-level bilateral talks.

In an interview granted to IZVESTIYA's correspondent on the completion of this part of the talks R. Olimov, leader of Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry, said:

"I am satisfied with the start of the meeting. We have managed to reach agreement on many questions. In particular, on problems of the border zone, where events are taking place that in far from all respects are an internal matter for Tajikistan alone. The task of the two countries' governments is to find ways to influence those forces that are seeking to make the Tajik-Afghan border a line of confrontation and overt enmity. In this connection we have spoken both of the need for a dialogue with the opposition and of the role of the Russian border troops in guarding Tajikistan's borders. As regards the former, I have expressed our readiness for a dialogue with those opposition representatives who are able to participate in it on legal grounds and who are capable of really influencing the forces behind them. The question of Russian troops' guarding the border should be examined on a historical plane, bearing in mind that independent Tajikistan today is still only creating its own national armed forces and is not yet in a position to guard its own borders itself."

The seemingly auspicious start to the talks in Dushanbe on the morning of 11 August was clouded by an alarming piece of news. In the region of the village of Kurgovd on the territory of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, armed persons who had crossed over from the Afghan village of Moy-May [name as transliterated] attacked a

vehicle of the Russian Federation border troops carrying Russian and Kazakh border guards. Two servicemen were injured. Five border guards, including an officer of the Kazakh border troops, were seized and taken across to Afghan territory. The vehicle was burned. This incident is regarded by the leadership of Tajikistan as a deliberate act aimed at wrecking the talks process which has begun and the meeting which is being prepared between the heads of the two neighboring states. A Tajik Foreign Ministry statement in this regard contains a demand for the immediate return of the captured servicemen and for tough measures to be taken against those guilty of committing the crime.

Russian Troops Command Issues Statement on Captured Guards

LD1108133793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—The Russian border troops command together with the Russian Embassy in Dushanbe, representatives of the Tajik Foreign Ministry and Gorno-Badakhshan authorities are working to return captured border guards through negotiations, says a statement of Commander of the Russian Border Troops Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev passed over to ITAR-TASS by the Russian border troops press service.

The statement was made in connection with an armed attack of about 50 militants from the Islamic Revival Party and servicemen of the Afghan 29th Infantry Division at a car carrying Russian border guards and Kazakh servicemen. The sudden attack launched from an ambush seized an officer from the Kazakh Defence Ministry and four Russian border guards, who were driven to the neighbouring territory.

Nikolayev accused "of the provocation the forces, which are trying to involve servicemen, protecting the Tajik border, in a new conflict situations aiming to undermine efforts to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border."

The commander stressed Russian border guards together with servicemen from other Commonwealth states will continue to do their best to ensure the safety at the Tajik-Afghan border and prevent all attempts to trespass the border to Tajik territory, on the basis of decisions of a conference of Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Russian, Tajik and Uzbek state heads of August 7, 1993.

In the words of the Russian border troops commander, representatives of the Afghan authorities and field commanders, who controlled the operation, have assured the life of hostages is in no danger.

Officials Begin Negotiations

LD1108165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 11 Aug 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 11 TASS—Nothing is known about the Kazakh officer and four Russian border guards taken hostage last morning by armed persons, who trespassed to Tajik Gorno-Badakhshan from a small Afghan settlement, and driven to Afghan territory.

Sources at the Gorno-Badakhshan administration told ITAR-TASS tonight, intensive negotiations between Afghan representatives and a group of Russian officers from the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan and representatives of the Afghan Foreign Ministry, currently on a working visit in Dushanbe, are underway.

The negotiations are also attended by Russian ambassador to Tajikistan Mechislav Senkevich, the Afghan consul to Tajikistan, heads of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region and representatives of the Pamirs self-defence units.

Gorno-Badakhshan Officials Request More Arms

PM1208100393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "Tajikistan: Khaborabad Pass Safe"]

[Excerpt] Dushanbe—Talks between representatives of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast administration and the Republic of Tajikistan's supreme leaders have ended in Dushanbe.

The meetings and conversations focused on questions of stabilizing the sociopolitical situation on the autonomous oblast's territory and providing residents with everything they need for the coming winter. The Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast delegation was received by head of state I. Rakhmanov, Supreme Soviet chairman.

During the talks it was confirmed once again that the population of the Tajik mountains and the legitimate authorities in the autonomous oblast fully support the republic's incumbent leadership and there were and are no fundamental differences between them. The problem of normalizing the situation in the Pamir is being held up by the actions of the opposition's illegal armed formations. According to reports from sources close to the Tajik Government, the Gorno-Badakhshan authorities intend to set up an additional subunit in law-enforcement organs in order to stabilize the situation in the oblast most speedily and asked for weapons and uniforms to be allocated. In the present circumstances the republic leadership considered that a sensible move. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan

Karimov Comments on 'Constructive' Central Asia Meeting

LD1008090893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0715 GMT 10 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Baranov]

[Text] Tashkent, 10 Aug—President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan has described as "constructive and beneficial" the August meeting in Moscow of the heads of state of Central Asia and Russia. Talking to newsmen, he declared that unlike earlier expanded meetings of the CIS heads of state, at which hundreds of ineffective documents had been passed, here they defined clear guidelines for cooperation in tackling serious common problems.

Regarding the Tajik-Afghan problem, which, President Karimov said, "has long since ceased to be a purely regional conflict," the participants in the meeting were unanimous in their approach to it: Any war, even a border war, is unacceptable in these conditions. Only a political dialogue with the participation of the opposition and leaders of the neighboring countries can give an answer to the vital question of peace in the much-suffering Tajikistan.

At the meeting in Moscow, Islam Karimov went on to say, a great deal of attention was also devoted to economic problems. All the heads of state, he stressed, are unanimous in their belief that it is necessary in practice to expand and deepen cooperation. Concrete ways toward such mutually beneficial economic integration between Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan were defined. The fact that our states remain in the ruble zone meets the interests of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan best of all.

Islam Karimov expressed the hope that the meeting of the heads of the Commonwealth, planned for 7 September, will make it possible to discuss in detail urgent economic issues and achieve effective and civilized cooperation within the Commonwealth. "We have no other option," he stressed.

Six Opposition Activists Sentenced

LD1108155393 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1102 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] The Supreme Court of Uzbekistan today issued an announcement saying that its court collegium on criminal cases has sentenced to five (?or three) years' deprivation of liberty six activists of the "Birlik" ["Unity"] movement and the "Erk" ["Liberty"] democratic party for committing specially serious anti-state crimes. The accused were charged with illegally working to create a "Mili Majlis" (National Assembly) as an alternative to the supreme legislative body currently operating on the basis of the constitution. Proceeding from the spirit of humanism, it is stated in the announcement, the court replaced the measures of punishment by three years' suspended sentence. One of the accused, who has already served the allotted punishment, was freed from the courtroom. The Ministry of Justice and the procurator general of the republic were instructed to prosecute the "Erk" party and its members for activity contradicting the rules of that party and the requirements of the law "on public associations of the Republic of Uzbekistan." They were instructed to take similar measures with regard to the "Birlik" movement. The procurator general was also instructed to put on trial the Chairman of the "Erk" party, Muhammad Solih, who, as is stated in the announcement, is on the run.

State Farms To Be Phased Out; Agriculture Faces Problems

PM1108161593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Berezovskiy: "Collective Farms Have Passed On"]

[Text] Tashkent—The last sovkhoz [state farm] will "die" in Uzbekistan in December. That is the decision of the cabinet of ministers, accelerating economic reform in agriculture.

Recently over 800 sovkhozes have already ceased to exist. Kolkhozes [collective farms] and cooperatives have arisen in their place. But the government believes that the deadlines for the new "collectivization" are being dragged out because of resistance from the directors' corps and local authorities, which do not want to part with their former privileges.

Meanwhile the republic's agriculture is obviously failing to cope with its tasks. The Golodnaya Steppe, into which nearly 50 billion "real" rubles were once invested, now imports 52 percent of the milk, 64 percent of the butter, and 74 percent of the potatoes it consumes. Average wages on the farms here are scarcely more than 7,000 rubles.

It is not surprising that 99 recently created kolkhozes and cooperatives, having failed to withstand market conditions, have now again asked to be taken under the state's wing in the hope of subsidies. The government, however, has adopted a tough stance. Only those farms that keep afloat will receive credits.

Radical economic measures promise substantial social changes. Over two thirds of the population lives in the countryside. It is no secret that on many farms the number of staff has been artificially inflated by a factor of 10-15. Henceforth the collectives have acquired the opportunity to decide for themselves how many people to take on. To all appearances this will give rise to a huge flow of rural youth into the cities.

Armenia

Popular Movement Leader Urged To Emigrate for Safety

NC1108150493 Yerevan SNARK in English 0957 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, August 11 (SNARK)—The leadership of the unit of National Self-Determination [Association] is of the opinion that it is better to send their leader—Paruyr Hayrikyan—abroad.

Paruyr Hayrikyan is a famous law defender.

Today press-center of the unit of National Self-Determination has spread declaration which says that the state terrorism lives in Armenia and in connection with the situation existing in the Republic party considers political struggle against dictatorship as a primary one. The leaders of the unit decided to delay the congress of the party and enforce authorities to arrest the participators of political murders in Yerevan. Besides, it is necessary for Hayrikyan to immigrate [as received] abroad because no guarantee exists for his security.

The unit of National Self-Determination appealed to the governments of the democratic states, social and political organizations to abstain from supporting the existing Armenian authorities till the authors and doers of terrorism are found out.

Foreign Ministry States Readiness To Aid Tajikistan

PM1208110793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Correspondent Karen Topchyan report: "Armenia Ready To Help"]

[Text] Yerevan—Yerevan has officially responded to the latest events on the Tajik-Afghan border. In a special statement issued on this score the Armenian Foreign Ministry deems the aggravation of the situation in south Tajikistan an "act of aggression against a sovereign state and member of the CIS and the United Nations to which the Republic of Armenia is linked by friendly interstate relations."

The foreign policy department statement goes on to say: "As a signatory to the Treaty on the Collective Security of the CIS States and on the basis of its commitments within the framework of the CIS and the Minsk accords of 22 January 1993 on carrying out peacemaking actions in Tajikistan, the Republic of Armenia confirms its readiness to afford essential aid to the Republic of Tajikistan and draws the attention of CIS member states to the need for collective efforts to achieve the swiftest possible settlement of the conflict."

In the opinion of many commentators, the expression of the Armenian leadership's official viewpoint on the situation in Tajikistan is a highly unusual event in that Transcaucasian state's political life.

To my question whether certain expressions used in the Republic of Armenia Foreign Ministry statement mean that Armenian Armed Forces might take part in the settlement of the conflict on the Tajik-Afghan border, foreign policy department press secretary Aram Safaryan replied as follows:

"It is difficult to say at present whether the need for extra efforts to protect the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan will arise or whether the main emphasis will be put on Tajik-Uzbek-Kazakh-Russian cooperation, as it is the states of the region which should have a special interest in establishing civil accord and stability. However, as early as February this year our country did express its readiness to join in all efforts aimed at safeguarding the collective security of CIS member countries."

According to observers, the Armenian leadership has thereby restated that it favors integrative processes within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including in the military sphere. Incidentally, Armenia was the first of the CIS countries that signed the Treaty on Collective Security to ratify the document.

Fizuli Attack Denied; Shelling Reported in Karabakh

NC1108180793 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] A relative calm has prevailed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border for the last three days. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that no serious incidents took place today either.

Azerbaijani sources are continuing to clamor about an alleged attack on Fizuli by the Karabakh side. And they are doing this at the very time when Gadrutskiy and Martuninskiy Rayons have been coming under shelling in recent days from a myriad of rocket and artillery launchers mostly based in Fizuli.

The settlements in these rayons are also being bombed during periodic flights of the Azerbaijani air force. Many peaceful residents of Karabakh were killed during these operations.

Gadrut and Drakhtik again came under rocket and artillery shelling on the night of 10-11 August. Casualty figures are being determined.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Headquarters reported that large concentrations of Azerbaijani troops and military hardware are being observed to the northeast of Martuni.

Further on Shelling

NC1208100393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0929 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 12 (SNARK)—This morning the Azerbaijani forces again started the shellings of the Karabakh positions in the Gadrutskiy and Martuninskiy regions from the Fizuli bases.

The Karabakh Department of Press and Information told SNARK that Azerbaijani Army uses tanks, artillery, "Grad" launchers shelling the Karabakh towns and villages. There are victims and destructions.

Yesterday Karen Baburyan acting as a head of the Karabakh parliament spread the declaration calling the Azerbaijani reports on the Fizuli capturing a disinformation. The main goal of such reports is to intensify the situation round the Rome meeting of the Minsk group of the CSCE.

Azerbaijan

Talysh-Mugan Rebellion Said Gaining Strength

NC1108174093 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish 10 Aug 93 p 13

[Text] Baku—The rebellion launched by Colonel Alikram Gumbatov, who took control of Azerbaijan's Lenkoran settlement and seven regions near the Iranian border, is continuing.

Gumbatov was elected the president of Talysh-Mugan Republic, which he proclaimed. Declaring that he does not recognize the Baku administration, Gumbatov threatened to march on Baku with his army and commit sabotage activities.

According to Dzhevanshir Kasymov, the press secretary of Gumbatov, a meeting was held in Lenkoran with the participation of representatives of the seven regions. In addition to proclaiming five people national heroes, the meeting also decided to hold a referendum on 29 August. The elections will decide the new administration of Talysh-Mugan Republic.

According to information provided by the [Azerbaijan] People's Front press center, Gumbatov spoke with the Chairman of the National Assembly Geydar Aliyev and Prime Minister Suret Guseynov and conveyed his demands to them.

Gumbatov informed them that if his demands are not met soldiers loyal to him will march on the capital, Baku. The rebels also threatened to blow up the Hatinbulak Dam and wage guerrilla struggles in the mountains.

Former Minister Hamidov Denies Coup Intentions

LD1108180493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Video report from Baku by correspondent M. Mamedov, including recording of remarks by former Azerbaijan Interior Minister Iskandar Hamidov at news conference on 11 August—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Iskandar Hamidov, former minister of internal affairs of Azerbaijan, has called the statement made by Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in Moscow to the effect that he, the former minister, would carry out a coup d'etat on 14 August the crudest provocation.

[Mamedov] This action, Iskandar Hamidov stressed at a news conference in Baku today, has been undertaken by the present authorities to discredit the opposition and, above all, the Popular Front. He noted that such statements by high officials only lead to a split in society, even though unity is now needed more than ever.

Iskandar Hamidov rejected the rumors that he has set up a Party of Gray Wolves. He said that there is, for the time being, only an idea that a movement of this kind may be set up. At the same time, the former minister admitted that there exist military formations which place their allegiance in him.

[Hamidov] These are located in two places, Kubatly and Terter rayons, and they are taking part in the war against the Armenian aggression. Maybe I even have enough power for a coup—but I also have enough sense not to take such a step.

[Mamedov] Iskandar Hamidov also said that in his view the authorities would, after 12 August, embark on repressions against all dissidents. Having given due credit to Geydar Aliyev as a skillful politician and prominent statesman, Hamidov recalled that we are no longer living in the 1970's but in 1993 and that the present authorities should take this into account.

Opposition Alleges Gross Violation of Human Rights

LD1108192593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Video report by correspondent V. Skvortsov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to Amnesty International, 161 countries in the world are violating human rights to various extents. The countries of former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Chad, and China are record holders in the field of violating human rights. The situation in the CIS republics, in which armed conflicts continue, is no less alarming. In Azerbaijan, a bad situation in this sense has been aggravated since Geydar Aliyev came to power, opposition representatives have told journalists.

[N. Ibragimov, leader of "Musavat" party] Methods of repression and strong-arm pressure against one's political opponents are being applied in Azerbaijan. Headquarters of opposition parties are being smashed. Without a procurator's sanction, people are being arrested.

[Skvortsov] In fact, political censorship has been introduced. Whole issues of newspapers are often being confiscated. Television journalists attract the special attention of law enforcement bodies. Their equipment has been repeatedly confiscated or simply broken. The journalists themselves have been subjected to threats and physical violence. Azerbaijan's democratic forces hope for the solidarity and support of the Russian public, and remind that the Baku scenario, when the parliament speaker came into power illegally can be repeated in Russia, their address says.

CSCE 'Minsk Group' Appeals to Warring Sides in Karabakh

LD1208083493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0512 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Startsev]

[Text] Rome August 12 TASS—The nine member countries of "the Minsk group" of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on Nagorno-Karabakh—Belarus, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United States, Turkey, France, the Czech Republic and Sweden—expressed "deep concern over reports on the intensification of combat operations in the zone of Martuni, Fizuli and Gadruta, which may have dramatic consequences for many dozens of thousands of civilians and damage peace process", says an appeal made public by "the Minsk group" here on Thursday [12 August].

The appeal was adopted in Rome on Wednesday during consultations with representatives from the sides participating in the conflict. The talks focus on a plan for fulfilling U.N. Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853.

Meeting participants call for stopping immediately combat operations, restoring, through direct contacts, the ceasefire which was observed for over ten days and refraining from capturing inhabited localities and other territories as well as from shelling and bombing, says the "Minsk group" appeal.

Armenian Forces Continue Advance on Fizuli

LD1108121793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1036 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Natig Abdullayev for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 11 Aug—With the support of armored vehicles and artillery, Armenian troops today continued stepping up their advance on Fizuli, the administrative center of Fizuli Rayon in southeast Azerbaijan. The Republic's Defense Ministry reported this afternoon that since last night Azerbaijani units have been waging stubborn defensive battles at the villages of Kargabazar and Mollaveli on the southwest outskirts of the rayon center.

Fizuli itself continues to come under intensive fire from the enemy's "Grad" rocket installations and tanks. According to information from a source citing the Fizuli defense staff, the village of Gushchular in the neighboring region of Dzhebrail is also being shelled.

In view of these dangerous developments, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry points out that "the new offensive on Fizuli follows the scenario tested on 23 and 24 July and again on 6-9 August, when the strike was first directed at the Fizuli to Jebrail road, and only then at the rayon center." Military experts say an enemy tank penetration should be expected in the next few hours from the north of the town along the road from Martuni.

The Defense Ministry also reports that this morning villages in Agjabedinskiy rayon were shelled from Armenian positions in the villages of Marzili and Novruzlu in the neighboring Agdamskiy Rayon, which were occupied earlier. It is also reported that border villages in Kedabekskiy and Zangelanskiy rayons were shelled from Armenian territory.

Further on Offensive

NC1208111893 Baku AZERTAC in English 1024 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 11 [date as received] (AZERTAC)—The Armenian forces supporting by armoured military vehicles and artillery are continuing their offensive against the town of Fizuli today. According to the Defence Ministry of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Azeri troops have been fighting near villages of Karbazar and Mollaveli near the south-west suburb of the town. The town of Fizuli is still being shelled from the Grad missiles and tanks. According to the sources referring to the Fizuli defence headquarters, the village of Gushchular of the neighbour Dzhebrailskiy region is being shelled as well. The Defence Department of the Azerbaijan Republic underlines that just another offensive against Fizuli is going on in accordance with the old plan used on the 23d-24th of July and on the 6th-8th of August when the Fizuli-Dzhebrail road had been pounded earlier and then the town of Fizuli was pounded too. Military experts think that the enemy's tank attack against the town on north direction along the Martuni-Fizuli road might be expected.

The Defence Ministry also says that this morning the settlements of the Agdzhabedi area were shelled from the Armenian positions situated in the villages of Marzili and Novruzlu occupied by the Armenian troops in the Agdam area further that border villages of the Kedabekskiy and Zangelanskiy areas is being shelled from the territory of Armenia.

Economic Tension, Decreased Production Reported

NC1108143393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Although the situation in various industrial sectors has recently stabilized, the general economic situation in the Republic continues to be tense. Production has decreased, and living standards have fallen with it.

That was the pessimistic contention of the participants of the meeting that has been held at the Council of Ministers on the economic situation. The meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Suret Guseynov, discussed the outcome of the work carried out in the economic field from January to June 1993. According to information provided by the Ministry of Economy, compared with the same period in 1992, the national income decreased by 13 percent from January to June 1993. The general volume of products was 10 percent smaller. Production continues to fall in the main areas, such as the oil extraction and the petroleum refining industries. Production also continues to fall in the chemical industry, the light industry, and the construction materials industry establishments. Meanwhile, an unfavorable situation exists in the supply of provisions.

Compared with the same period in 1992, the targets in procuring meat, milk, and eggs have been achieved by only 63, 73, and 44 percent, respectively, from January to June 1993.

The majority of the establishments have failed to fulfill their contract obligations. The products supplied to the Republic were [words indistinct].

The meeting noted that the serious economic situation was caused by the deficiencies that have been allowed in the cadre policy and the management of the economy, mainly the failure to organize a mechanism for the establishment of values and imposition of taxes, the disruption of the financial credits system, and many other problems.

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Butrus-Ghali Discuss UN Assistance

LD1208112293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Our correspondent Nikolay Mamulashvili reported that last night a telephone conversation took place between Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Shevardnadze appealed to the United Nations to send additional groups of observers to the conflict zone. This should be done immediately, Shevardnadze stressed. According to the Georgian leader, the Security Council should also examine the issue of sending multinational peacekeeping forces to the region. For his part, Butrus-Ghali said that everything possible will be done.

Measures Taken To Implement Abkhaz Settlement

LD1108202093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Video report from Abkhazia by correspondent N. Pavlov—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] When the tripartite joint commission on the settlement in Abkhazia began its work, the day of 11 August seemed to be a turning-point. It was supposed that by that time armed formations, forces, and equipment would have been withdrawn from the conflict zone. In reality, however, it has proved to be much more complicated. Mutual distrust of the parties was becoming an obstacle in speeding up the implementation of decisions. In addition, according to the military, to separate the confronting parties in line with the schedule has proved technically impossible. While politicians managed to agree in principle, the military in Sukhumi today managed to dot the i's in practical matters.

[Begin recording, S. Kudinov, head of staff of the Commission on the Settlement in Abkhazia] By 1200 on 14 August the Georgian troops and volunteer formations who were fighting on the Abkhazian side will leave the positions and the conflict zone. By 1200 on 16 August practically no military formations will remain in the area of the Gumista front. And at 1700 we will begin clearing mine fields and fortifications. [end recording]

Mutual Mistrust Limits Efforts To End Abkhaz Conflict

PM1208111793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Ivan Sergeyev report: "Abkhazia: Search for Road to Peace. Georgian and Abkhaz Sides Still Mistrust Each Other"]

[Text] The latest tripartite meeting on a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict was held in Pitsunda 10 August. An information report signed by Major General Sergey Kudinov, chief of staff of the Joint Commission, was submitted to it. According to the report, the two sides in the conflict are not abiding by the cease-fire agreement. The specific times and places of instances of automatic weapon fire and firing by artillery systems are cited.

These facts are at variance with the statements made by representatives of the Georgian and Abkhazian sides the previous day. The former claim to have removed all their artillery from positions on both fronts. According to reports by the Gudauta delegation, two Grad launchers, four free-flight rocket launchers, eight 85mm guns, and six 120mm mortars have been pulled back from the front

line in the region of Novyy Afon. Each side accuses the other of violating the terms of the agreement.

The sporadic exchanges of fire cast doubt on the exact fulfillment of the timetable for disengaging the sides and withdrawing troops, and they complicate the course of the talks. Thus, soon after the start of the previous tripartite conference 8 August, there was an exchange of fire in the region of Shroma, which at once introduced additional nervousness into the atmosphere of the meeting.

The question of the peacemaking forces is also being resolved with difficulty at the talks. The Georgian side believes that these forces must be formed by neutral countries, although it does admit some participation of Russian subunits in them. The Abkhazian delegation proposes giving Russian troops the status of peacemaking force and bringing them into the conflict zone as quickly as possible. But representatives of the United Nations who have arrived in the region of combat operations do not promise the speedy resolution of this complex question.

The situation is also being complicated by difficulties over obtaining information from observation posts of the Joint Commission's temporary control groups. Although there are 11 of them on the Georgian side and 10 on the Abkhazian side, the commission staff failed to make contact with them right up until 9 August owing to severe radio jamming on working frequencies.

Press Center Denies Attack on Joint Commission in Sukhumi

LD1108135193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia reports that it is calm in Sukhumi and Ochamchire rayon. However, Abkhaz units have fired from machine-guns and grenade launchers at well-known Height No. 902 and at the village of Tsugurovka.

The press center categorically denies a Novosti television news program report that Georgian armed forces opened fire on members of the joint commission.

Abkhazia Names Representative to Joint Commission

AU1108204593 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Aug 93 p 1

[GIA report under rubric "War and Peace": "The Abkhazian Part of the Joint Commission Has Been Created"]

[Text] Sukhumi. On 31 July, Gudauta Radio broadcast that the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the so-called Republic of Abkhazia had ratified the Abkhazian part of the Joint Commission for Regulating the Armed Conflict in Abkhazia.

The commission is made up of: Nodar Shamba—deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Abkhazia (RA), chairman of the commission; Said Tarkil—acting RA minister of foreign affairs; Gennadiy Berulava—acting chairman of the RA Security Service; Guram Dopua—RA deputy minister of defense; Stanislav Lakoba—chairman of the RA Supreme Council Commission for International Affairs and Interparliamentary Ties; Beslan Kobakhiya—chairman of the RA State Commission for the Management of State Property and Privatization.

The decree is signed by the Presidium of the RA Supreme Council and V. Ardzinba, chairman of the RA Supreme Council.

The RA Supreme Council has also decreed to establish 14 August as the day marking the beginning of the armed conflict in Abkhazia and a day of remembrance for the defenders of the motherland who fell in defense of the RA. What is meant are the inhabitants of Abkhazia who, with weapons in their hands, fought against Georgian Government troops and mercenaries called volunteer fighters by the Abkhazian side. It is recommended in the decree that the RA Council of Ministers and administrative heads elaborate measures for the day of remembrance.

Pollsters Issue Results of Survey on Sochi Agreement

AU1108195893 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 6 Aug 93 p 1

["SG Rapid Poll"—figures as published]

[Text] What Does the Sochi Agreement Mean?

A victory for the Abkhazian side: 11 percent

Our capitulation: 17 percent

A temporary forced measure: 28.7 percent

A rational compromise: 31.4 percent

An achievement for Georgia: 9.3 percent

Difficult to say: 2.7 percent

Will the Sochi Cease-Fire Agreement Be Violated?

Yes, by the Abkhazian side: 36.3 percent

Yes, due to interference by Russia: 34.7 percent

Yes, by the Georgian side: 9.0 percent

It will not be violated: 15.7 percent

Difficult to say: 4.3 percent

Commission Confirms Human Rights Violations in Gagra

LD1108181993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By non-staff ITAR-TASS correspondent Noi Kankiya]

[Text] Sukhumi August 11 TASS—The joint commission on the settlement in Abkhazia on the Georgian side's demand sent its representatives to the zone of the city of Gagra, specifically to the village of Bzyb to study facts of violation of human rights there.

After a thorough study of materials and meetings with representatives of the Georgian population in the Sochi airport and the village of Bzyb, members of the commission from the Abkhazian, Georgian and Russian sides drew up and signed a protocol confirming the facts of violation of human rights in the village of Bzyb.

Abkhaz Officials Condemn Violations

LD1208103393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The ministers of justice, and of internal affairs, and the procurator general of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia have sent an appeal to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali; Russian President Boris Yeltsin; Georgian State leader Eduard Shevardnadze; Sergey Shoigu, chairman of Russia's State Committee for Emergency Situations; Zhiuli Shartava, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, and all news agencies accredited in Abkhazia.

The appeal reads: We, the employees of law-enforcement bodies and law experts of Abkhazia, have learned of alarming instances of human rights infringements in the Gagra town area. Its indigenous Georgian population is being driven out of Gagra by force, and are having residence permits withdrawn. This is taking place despite the signing of the tripartite agreement on the cease-fire and the safe return of refugees to their permanent places of residence. These instances have been confirmed by the tripartite commission and officially registered.

Instead of taking radical measures against such criminal actions by the Abkhaz side, the Abkhaz side received only a warning. Such attitude from the competent commission threatens the fate of those Abkhaz people who had lived together with Georgians on the territory controlled by the Georgians during the period of military confrontation.

We ask you to intervene and to take radical measures in order to stop the expulsion of Georgians from the Gagra area, otherwise, such a situation may have a reverse effect and influence negatively a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The appeal is signed by Denidze, minister of justice of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia; Lakurbaia, procurator general of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia; and Guala, minister of internal affairs of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Several Cease-Fire Violations Reported in Abkhazia

LD1208120793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug—The cease-fire agreement was violated several times along the line of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict over the past 24 hours. Georgian troops continue shelling villages in Ochamchira rayon. According to the press service of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, three populated settlements in the rayon came under anti-aircraft, grenade launcher, artillery, and small-arms fire late Wednesday [11 August] evening. The Reka and Kutol populated settlements came under gun and grenade launcher fire early this morning. It is reported that Abkhaz Armed Forces are compelled to return fire.

Abkhaz Leader Protests

LD1108161293 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1415 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Gudauta, 11 Aug—According to an IBERIA correspondent, the Supreme Council Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba, of the so-called Republic of Abkhazia, sent a telegram to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The telegram says that the Georgian side is allegedly ignoring the agreement of 27 July 1993 on a cease-fire in Abkhazia and monitoring the mechanisms of its implementation.

The Georgian side is systematically breaching the cease-fire timetable. Following the order from the head of state, about 1,000 Mkhedrioni members have been dispatched to Abkhazia recently. Defensive structures are being built, and residential and administrative buildings of Sukhumi are being mined.

The terror on the non-Georgian population has increased. The above-mentioned facts demonstrate that the Georgian side is not willing to pull out forces from Abkhazia within 10-15 days despite the demands envisaged by the agreement.

Truce Violations Detailed

MK1208074093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Guga Lolishvili report: "Russian Planes Fly Training Missions in Combat Zone."]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The news coming from Abkhazia is that both sides are generally observing the cease-fire, although violations of the truce are taking place from time to time in some areas. According to Georgian sources, for example, on Tuesday [10 August], Abkhazian formations fired automatic weapons at Georgian troop positions in the area of Tsugurovka Hill, 5 to 6 kilometers northeast of Sukhumi. At about 1400, the Georgian side recorded the appearance of two Russian SU-27 aircraft in the same area. The Russian Air Force Command in Abkhazia, whom the Georgian side contacted, explained that the planes were flying a training mission. One can only guess how necessary it is for the Russian Air Force to conduct training flights over combat positions in one of the most tense regions in the Caucasus at a moment when any provocation may disrupt the truce. [passage omitted]

Armed Group Attempts to Seize Russian Supply Column

LD1108171293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1627 GMT 11 Aug 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 Aug—A transport convoy belonging to the Russian group of forces in the Transcaucasus, consisting of 124 heavy vehicles, was blocked today by Georgian armed groups attempting to capture it in the small town of Natakhtari, not far from Tbilisi. The column was transporting food, fuel, and lubricants from Stavropol Kray as agreed with the republic's top military leadership and in accordance with the customs regulations of Russia and Georgia.

The command of the Russian group of troops in the Caucasus was forced to take severe measures involving force in order to free the column and prevent its capture and plunder. Military helicopters were dispatched, and armored vehicles and reinforcements sent in with orders to shoot to kill if there was an attempt to seize Russian property. The measures taken were effective and after two hours the column continued along its planned route. The Georgian Defense Ministry has not taken responsibility upon itself for the incident, saying that these were the actions of armed formations which are not subordinate to it.

According to information received by the Russian group's headquarters, Georgian Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili has officially apologized to the group's command.

Former Abkhaz Official Interviewed on Settlement of Conflict

MK1108011593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 3

[Interview with Zurab Labakhua, former deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, by Tenghiz Pachkoriya, under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Russia's Stance Should Be Even Tougher; Former Abkhazian Deputy Prime Minister on the Settlement of the Conflict"—place, date not given]

[Text] Zurab Labakhua is former deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers and former chief of the Abkhazian group of the Control and Inspection Commission under the Final Document of the Moscow Meeting of 3 September 1992. Recently, Zurab Labakhua came to head a Moscow-based initiative group to set up the "Phoenix" Abkhazian Revival Fund, which brought together refugees from Abkhazia in Moscow—people of various ethnic origins and professions.

[Pachkoriya] Zurab Akakiyevich, last April you resigned from the post of deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers. Have you quit politics for good?

[Labakhua] I submitted my resignation because of serious disagreements with the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet chairman that have accumulated both before and during the war. When I did so, I made clear to the press my stance on the peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, but by no means at the expense of Abkhazia's sovereign rights; on the contrary, I had in mind an increase in its status as a state.

As for my departure from politics—in no way. Owing to the circumstances, I see myself as a relatively independent politician, and this means that I am all the more entitled to express my opinion, although formerly I did not lack these possibilities, either. I will probably not be an organizer of political activity, but that is another matter.

[Pachkoriya] How do you assess the content of the agreement signed in Sochi and how realistic is it, given this situation?

[Labakhua] It has obviously been well worked out given our time demands. It is based on the revived principles of the Final Document of the Moscow meeting of 3 September 1992 with additional details and followup clauses.

For all my respect for Georgian Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze and Sokrat Dzhindzholiya, the deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, however, this momentous document should have been signed by the primary persons. The political stakes are too high; so is, therefore, the political responsibility.

If the agreement is to be implemented, conditions for strict control and observance should be created that would rule out possible misunderstandings and provocations (which have already occurred) that may lead to new military flareups. Unflagging discipline along the vertical line should be ensured, along with personal responsibility of all, from the first person to people who carry out specific tasks; a well-oiled mechanism and a technology of power should also be set up. Given that the agreement drew a mixed reaction among Abkhazian and Georgian politicians, it is essential to launch a wide-ranging public

relations campaign in its support, and here it is the leaders of the sides and the republics' progressive forces who must live up to their lofty positions.

I would like to raise one important point. There is one mistake that is being made in the public relations campaign. I have repeatedly said that the status of autonomy is not enough for Abkhazia. This should be clear to all. Nonetheless, words are heard from Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and the current Georgian leaders about guarantees for this autonomy. This is an utterly erroneous premise. It irritates and adds to tensions.

[Pachkoriya] Why? An autonomy, if it is correctly understood, gives a lot in many areas of life.

[Labakhua] First, no one has stripped Abkhazia of its autonomy, if we forget former President Gamsakhurdia's rally threats regarding Abkhazia and the Abkhazian people during his ascent to the "throne."

Second, Abkhazian autonomy was not born from scratch, from a lack of statehood. It has a fairly long history of twelve centuries of statehood behind it.

Moreover, there have been periods in history when Abkhazia played an important role in setting up an all-Georgian state. Under the Soviets, however, Abkhazia's statehood was in effect repressed. This should be known and born in mind in considering Abkhazia's future, obviously also taking into account current realities. In general, I think that the future of Georgia lies in a federative state structure.

[Pachkoriya] Your ideas appear to be controversial. The Abkhazians enjoyed benefits and privileges that many peoples of the USSR did not have. If the agreement is not implemented, what would you propose to do then?

[Labakhua] Russia's stance should be even more clear-cut, consistent, and tough. Being aware of the methods of diplomatic political balancing, words in this event should be in accord with deeds. I do not think that Russia should accept a secondary role in mediation or peacekeeping. But should this happen, it will be essential to urgently convene a conference on the Abkhazian issue under the United Nations aegis attended by Abkhazia, Georgia, Russia, the North Caucasus republics (especially the Abkhazian-Adyg language group), Turkey, the World Cherkess Association, and the executive committee of the World Congress of the Abkhazian-Abazin People.

[Pachkoriya] It is hard for me to judge how realistic and effective it will be, or how feasible. You include in the conference the North Caucasus and even Turkey. What do you need this for and what will be the use of this?

[Labakhua] One cannot view the war in Abkhazia decoupled from processes underway in the former USSR, without linking it to the situation in the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus. The Abkhazian events are directly related to the acute political struggle in Georgia, which started as long ago as 1988 (it was a new stage for that time) and has been continuing to the present day.

The participation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict of volunteers from the North Caucasus on the side of the Abkhazians has drawn mixed assessments from politicians. My stand is clear, though—they do as brothers would. Some politicians and journalists have a biased view on the subject, and they are wrong. I have repeatedly said this, including during trilateral talks.

The Abkhazians and the Georgians are closely related peoples. There cannot be any doubt about this. Those who fail to see this are blind, those who do not recognize this are the enemies of the brotherhood and future generations. But, unfortunately, this blindness and these misconceptions often apply to our common Caucasus brotherhood as well.

As for Turkey, the answer is even simpler. First, there is a considerable Abkhazian diaspora living there. Second, this most great country is our neighbor in the Black Sea area; the interests of Abkhazia, Georgia, Russia, and Turkey naturally cross here; and it cannot but have strong feelings concerning the course that events in the Black Sea Transcaucasus and in the Caucasus in general will take.

[Pachkoriya] The "Phoenix" Abkhazian Revival Fund that you are setting up in Moscow is a public, nongovernmental organization. But do the parties concerned know about your plans?

[Labakhua] On 2 August, an official message was sent to Kozyrev, Shoygu, Ardzinba, and Shevardnadze on behalf of the "Phoenix" initiative group. Our plans were approved and supported when they were discussed at the Russian Foreign Ministry and the State Committee for Emergency Situations (where we were present in person); I do not doubt that they will meet with understanding and support from the leaders of Abkhazia and Georgia.

Top CCP Official Says Volunteers Could Remain in Abkhazia

AU1208111293 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 6 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by N. Kantsiya from the "AIS" Information and Analytical Service specially for Georgian Information Agency: "Will the Mercenaries Remain?"]

[Text] On 4 August, Gudauta Radio broadcast a conversation with one of the North Caucasian fighters who was introduced as chief of the headquarters of the troops of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples [CCP], a certain Amin Khozrielovich Zekhov.

A Gudauta Radio employee asked Zekhov the following question: "Do you think it possible that, in spite of the corresponding point in the [Sochi] agreement, North Caucasian volunteers will not leave the territory of Abkhazia?" After all, it is stated in the agreement:

"Armed formations of the Abkhazian side will comprise a regiment of internal troops that will be put on barracks alert and will fulfill the functions of internal troops until a full-scale settlement is reached." As is known, North Caucasian volunteer groups are part of the armed formations of the Republic of Abkhazia....

In response to this question, Zekhov, referring to the statute on the status of volunteers adopted by the Republic of Abkhazia Supreme Council, began to argue that it was possible that the North Caucasian military formations would not leave Abkhazia but serve in the regiment of internal troops provided for in the agreement until the population of Abkhazia starts to restore the economy. Moreover, the "volunteers'" place of service is not limited to Abkhazia alone. He believes that they could fulfill their functions, let us say, in Moscow or in "South Ossetia." According to him, they have a right to this as they do to work.

Cabinet of Ministers Issues Decree on Ruble Withdrawal

AU1208104293 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 27 Jul 93 p 2

["Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia on the Withdrawal From Circulation on the Territory of the Republic of Georgia Soviet and Russian Ruble Bank Notes Issued Between 1961 and 1992" issued in Tbilisi on 24 July]

[Text] In light of the withdrawal from circulation of Soviet and Russian bank notes (bank and treasury notes) of the 1961-1992 type in the Russian Federation and with a view to protecting the interests of the citizens of the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers decrees:

1. The citizens of Georgia are permitted to exchange Soviet and Russian banknotes of the 1961-1992 type in their possession for coupons of the Republic of Georgia National Bank up to 100,000 rubles [R] at an exchange rate of 1:1 and to deposit sums in excess of that amount in interest-bearing fixed term accounts.

During the first six months, citizens are only permitted to use the sums deposited in private accounts for the acquisition of facilities that are being privatized under clearing settlements and after that six month period use is at the account holders discretion.

2. The exchange and payment into deposit accounts of Soviet and Russian bank notes of the 1961-1992 type in the form of National Bank coupons will take place between 26 July and 2 August 1993 inclusive.

3. Persons who have been temporarily posted to the Republic of Georgia are permitted to exchange Soviet and Russian bank notes of the 1961-1992 type up to R30,000.

4. For workers and office workers, the exchange in cash of Soviet and Russian bank notes of the 1961-1992 type up to R100,000 is to take place in enterprises and organizations, and for unemployed persons, pensioners and other categories of citizens the exchange is to take place in branches of the Savings Bank and this is to be recorded in their passports.

Enterprises and organizations are to take the necessary funds in coupons from the banking institutions that serve them on the basis of appropriate applications and with accompanying lists.

5. The Savings Bank and other state commercial banks are requested to ensure that the exchange of Soviet and Russian bank notes of the 1961-1992 type is carried out and that they are accepted for citizens personal deposit accounts.

6. As of 24 July 1993, banking institutions are to accept earnings derived from commerce in coupons only.

7. This decree is to be published in the press and broadcast on radio and television.

[Signed] T. Sigua, prime minister of the Republic of Georgia

[Dated] Tbilisi, 24 July 1993

Makes Coupon 'Sole Legal Tender'

AU1208103993 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 27 Jul 93 p 2

["Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Georgia National Bank Declaring the Coupon of the Republic of Georgia National Bank the Sole Legal Tender on the Territory of the Republic of Georgia" issued in Tbilisi on 24 July]

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Georgia National Bank decree:

1. As of 3 August 1993, all manner of payment, both cash and non-cash, is to be conducted solely in coupons of the Republic of Georgia National Bank.

On the territory of the Republic of Georgia, commercial institutions and units in the services sphere (irrespective of the form of ownership) are to conduct retail trade in all types of goods and provide services solely for coupons.

As of 3 August 1993, the permits issued by the Republic of Georgia National Bank authorizing the retailing of goods and the provision of services for foreign currency are revoked.

The conduct of retail trade and the provision of services for foreign currency on the territory of the Republic of Georgia is only possible with special permission from the Republic of Georgia National Bank.

2. On the territory of the Republic of Georgia Soviet and Russian ruble bank notes (bank and treasury notes and coins) will only be in circulation until 3 August 1993.

As of 3 August 1993, retail trading and the provision of services for Soviet and Russian rubles will be considered an unlawful activity and a criminal act.

3. Until 3 August, banking institutions on the territory of the Republic of Georgia will accept Soviet and Russian bank notes from juridical and physical persons for exchange into coupons and payment into deposit and current accounts at a rate of 1:1.

4. As of 3 August 1993, all juridical persons operating on the territory of the Republic of Georgia are to declare all the cash in rubles in their cash registers on 24 July 1993 and to deposit those funds, submitting original cash inventory records, by 3 August with the banking institution servicing the given juridical person.

The failure to satisfy this point is punishable in accordance with existing legislation.

By 5 August 1993, banking institutions are to provide the Republic of Georgia National Bank with data on the cash in rubles received from their customers for exchange into coupons and on the amount of rubles remaining in their cash registers on 3 August 1993.

5. As of 3 August 1993, banking institutions are to convert the balance of the accounts of juridical and physical persons from rubles to coupons at a rate of 1:1 irrespective of the level of assets in the accounts. Outstanding obligations and bank assets and liabilities are to be converted in the same manner.

6. As of 3 August, enterprises, organizations, institutions (irrespective of the form of ownership) are to maintain accounts and records as well as draw up balance sheets solely in coupons.

Debit and credit obligations as they appear in balance sheets and monies in transit funds at their levels on 3 August 1993 are to be converted to coupons at a rate of 1:1.

7. The execution of economic, commercial, financial and credit and other contracts concluded on the territory of the Republic of Georgia as well as the cover of securities is only to be in coupons.

8. As of 3 August 1993, the Russian ruble is accorded the status of a foreign currency on the territory of the Republic of Georgia and is subject to national currency regulations.

9. As of 3 August 1993, Russian rubles are to be exchanged for coupons according to free market rates at legally authorized banks and currency exchange points that have a license issued by the Republic of Georgia National Bank.

Trading in foreign currencies, including the Russian ruble, without a license from the Republic of Georgia National Bank is prohibited. In accordance with the law, such an activity will result in liability being incurred for the violation of the regulations governing foreign currency operations.

10. Monetary transfers and payments outside Georgia are to be discharged as foreign currency clearing transactions through the Republic of Georgia National Bank and legally authorized banks through corresponding accounts.

11. Ruble receipts paid into the corresponding accounts of the Republic of Georgia National Bank and legally authorized banks to the order of juridical and physical persons in the Republic of Georgia are to be credited to the foreign currency accounts of the aforementioned juridical and physical persons after the obligatory deduction of a portion of the receipts according to established procedure and the assignment to that sum to the foreign currency fund and the Republic of Georgia National Bank.

[Signed] T. Sigua, prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

N. Pipiya, first vice president of the Republic of Georgia National Bank.

[Dated] Tbilisi, 24 July 1993.

Planned 'Power Corridor' To Serve Five States

AU1208110693 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 6 Aug 93 p 1

[Georgian Information Agency report under the rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "The 'Power Corridor' Will Pass Through Georgia"]

[Text] Five states—Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, and Turkey—have given their preliminary agreement to the creation of a single power system. It envisages the laying of a 200-kw electric power line from Akhaltsikhe to Kars and the renewal of existing ones. Negotiations on this are currently in progress between the countries. Yuriy Chediya, chairman of the Georgian Department of Power Engineering, believes that, in the event of a positive resolution of the question, the republic will receive an additional source of revenue due to the transmission of electric power from Russia to Turkey via Georgia. For all intents and purposes, a power corridor will pass through Georgia. Furthermore, the republic's electric power system will be given the chance to purchase technology from the advanced countries of the world.

Japan Offers Humanitarian Aid Worth $2.6 Million

LD1208103593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0702 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 12 TASS—Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze has received a letter from Japanese ex-Premier Kiichi Miyazawa pledging Japan's intention to allot a 2.6 million dollars worth of humanitarian aid to the Caucasian republic.

Nowadays Georgia needs medical supplies badly which will make up a major part of the aid.

Estonia

State Court Declares Narva Referendum Legally Invalid

LD1108152893 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] At 1000 hours this morning, a sitting of the State Court's collegium on constitutional monitoring opened in the Tartu Town Hall with a request from the justice chancellor to recognize as legally invalid the 28 June resolution of Narva town council on its attitude to the law on foreigners. Also Taking part in the court session were Justice Chancellor Erik-Juhan Truuvali and Justice Minister Kaido Kama. Narva town council was represented at the session by Vladimir Kuznetsov, deputy chairman of the town council, and town council members Vladimir Andreyev and Vladimir Khomyakov.

A few minutes after 1630 hours, State Court Chairman Rait Maruste read out the court ruling. The court found that based on Article 104, Section 1 of the Constitution, the concept of a referendum is as follows. State bills can be put to a referendum. The law does not mention local referendums. An ethnic-territorial autonomy is a general state issue and must be resolved the way general state decisions are dealt with. A town council can deal with local issues only. The town council referendum on the ethnic-territorial issue is beyond the scope of the law on local governments, and thus anticonstitutional. The Constitution does not envisage any ethnic-territorial autnomies, either, and this goes counter to the spirit of the Constitution.

The State Court's collegium on constitutional monitoring decided to satisfy the justice chancellor's first request of 20 June 1993 to recognize as invalid, in full, the 28 June 1993 resolution of Narva town council on its attitude to the law on foreigners. The decision comes into effect on the day it is announced, which is today, and there is no appeal procedure.

Commenting on the State Court's ruling, Vladimir Kuznetsov, deputy chairman of Narva town council, said that he had not expected a ruling of this kind. Narva town council will continue work to prepare for the local government elections on 17 October.

So, this is what happened today at the first State Court session in Tartu.

Ruling Called 'Violence Against Young Democracy'

WS1208094993 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0717 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From 12 August RAHVA HAAL, POSTIMEES, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, August 12—The State Court declared the Narva town council resolution on the referendum null and void at a session held in Tartu yesterday. The State Court constitutional supervision collegium, consisting of Rait Maruste, Lea Kalm, Jaano Odar, Tnu Anton and Juri Pld decided to satisfy the Justice Chancellor's appeal on the Narva town council resolution as of July 28. The State Court also invalidated all other legal acts regulating the execution of the resolution.

Deputy chairman of the Narva town council Vladimir Kuznetsov requested that the session be postponed since their lawyer had failed to obtain an Estonian visa and the town council had not received all documents in time. Kuznetsov claimed that Justice Chancellor Erik-Juhan Truuvali had made his decision hastily and based on the draft resolution only. He further argued that the Narva town council attempted to protect its voters rather than violate the constitutional order in Estonia.

The State Court stressed that the town council resolution violated the constitution since local governments have no authority to decide nationwide issues like changing the status of a whole region. Conducting referendums is, too, a right granted to the Riigikogu only. Rait Maruste read the ruling of the State Court stressing that some of the contradictions were caused by terminology used by the town council. Truuvali later commented that more translation errors may be discovered in the Russian-language versions of the government documents.

Kuznetsov later accused the government of attempting to prevent the referendum, seizing the Narva Commercial Bank and failing to coordinate with the town council the decision of allocating land for the border checkpoint. Kuznetsov also denounced the presence of the Justice Chancellor and Justice Minister Kaido Kama, since both are government officials. He described the ruling as "violence against young democracy."

State Court Chairman Rait Maruste commented that the State Court proceeded from legal aspects of the case exclusively. He did not exclude the possibility that the "referendum" results may be considered an opinion poll without any legal consequences. The Narva town council leaders have promised earlier to abide by the ruling of the State Court.

Laar Responds to Criticism of Decrees on Secret Police

WS1108145193 Tallinn BNS in English 1328 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] TALLINN, Aug 11, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar accused opposition leaders of creating a political spectacle in their criticism of two government decrees on secret police activity.

The opposition has chosen to hurl accusations at the government than to really improve the work of the defense police, he said.

Opposition leaders called for an extraordinary meeting of the parliament on Aug. 16 in hopes that the parliament would revoke the two documents—the Defense

Police Statute and the regulations for using technical surveillance—as anti-constitutional.

Laar said both documents had been examined by the parliament commission overseeing the activity of the secret police. The representative of the opposition Centrist faction in the commission had then backed the adoption of the documents. "The Centrist faction later changed its course and started to attack the decrees," Laar added.

The normal procedure for contesting documents approved by the Cabinet is an appeal to the country's justice chancellor, said Laar. "It remains unclear to me why this (procedure) wasn't used," he said.

Laar characterized as "strange" the opposition's attempts to block reforms in structures that are important to the state's development, adding that apparently there was somebody behind the wave of criticism who badly feared changes in the defense police activity.

Opposition Council Criticizes Government Coalition Tactics

WS1208095493 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0717 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From 12 August PAEVALEHT, p 3]

[Text] Thursday, August 12—The consultative and cooperation council of 12 opposition politicians made a statement at its meeting yesterday, chaired by Edgar Savisaar and Raoul Ksvarav. The "Fatherland" has failed to fulfill its programme and the coalition agreement, the statement ran. They compared the government coalition tactics with the Soviet practice of replacing the production targets not met by new and more impressive targets. "One month before the local elections a "new policy" of Laar's government is to be declared, so as to disguise the failures of the previous policy," the opposition statement read.

A number of ministers are to be replaced so as to increase the power of the "Fatherland" , the opposition members claimed. They named Madis Urike, Lagle Parek, Marju Lauristin, Jaan Leetsar and some other ministers as the ones to be replaced. But that will not improve the state of the nation, the opposition statement predicted.

Discussions on Nomination of Defense Minister Continue

LD1108170093 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Andres Arujarv, deputy chairman of the Estonian National Independence Party board, has told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that the party is considering two candidates for the post of defense minister. They are Avo Kiir, member of the party's parliamentary faction, and Nathan Tonnisson, currently chancellor at the Ministry of Roads and Communications, who is not a party member. According to Arujarv the final decision on the defense minister nominee will be made by the party council on 14 August.

According to the coalition agreement the Estonian National Independence Party has the right to choose the defense minister, but in recent days there has been talk of switching some ministerial seats with other coalition partners—that is, the Fatherland and the Moderate Parties.

Riigikogu Defense Commission Votes No Confidence in Leader

WS1208095293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0717 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From 12 August RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, August 12—The Riigikogu national defence commission voted no confidence to its present chairman Rein Helme ("Fatherland") with six votes against four. However, the commission members could not agree on the election of the new chairman, besides Helme and Peeter Lorents, Enn Tarto was stood for the post. Finally Peeter Lorents was elected for three months, after which Helme will return to the post. The vote of no confidence was started by Lorents, who stressed that the move was not caused by Rein Helme's personal abilities, but by the necessity to better realize the policy of the Coalition party, the Rural Union and the Citizens League.

The commission was to discuss several aspects of the Pullapaa affair and the preparations for the Monday's Riigikogu session. According to Helme, the commission met the government investigation commission but did not discuss the central issues.

While some Riigikogu commission members objected to the forming of the parliamentary investigation commission, Juri Toomepuu argued its necessity. The government commission is biased, he claimed, suggesting that a parliament commission including Peeter Lorents, Enn Tarto, Kirill Teiter and Kuno Raude be formed.

Helme later commented that party politics should not interfere with national defence. He predicted that the Monday's session will turn into a manifestation of party interests rather than a practical discussion.

NATO Air Defense Director Visits Tallinn

WS1208095393 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0717 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From 12 August RAHVA HAAL, p 3]

[Text] Thursday, August 12—Director of the NATO air defence systems David A Facey visited Tallinn on an invitation of the Aviation Department. He was received by the Director of the Department Mati Srmus. David A Facey visited the Tallinn Airport, the Aviation department, the air traffic control and the Defence Forces

GHQ. He stressed the importance of Estonia's integration to the European airspace. "Isolation in aviation is impossible," he said, describing air traffic safety as the "absolute priority", requiring major investments for the development of up-to-date air traffic control systems. D.A.Facey is dealing with the compatibility and coordination of civilian and military air traffic control structures.

Latvia

Swedish Foreign Minister af Ugglas Visits Tallinn

Assures Support on Russian Pullout

LD1108160593 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Margaretha af Ugglas, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, arrived in Latvia today. She met Latvia's Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, and leaders of various Saeima commissions. A talk with Parliamentary Speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs is also envisaged for af Ugglas.

The development of relations between Sweden and Latvia was analyzed at the meeting with Latvian Premier Valdis Birkavs. Mrs af Ugglas promised her state's support in influencing international public opinion and attracting the interest of international organizations in the speedier withdrawal of the Russian army from Latvia. It is necessary to draft in the near future a real agreement on cooperation between Latvian and Swedish customs, which could be concluded as early as this month.

Premier Valdis Birkavs informed Mrs af Ugglas about the government's plans in the sphere of state reforms and topical political issues.

Discusses CSCE Presence

LD1108195693 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1545 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Another travelling politician [reference to Major's arrival in Sweden] is Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas who is currently visiting the Latvian capital Riga to discuss, among other things, whether the CSCE can take part in preventing national conflicts in Latvia.

[Correspondent Goeran Skaansberg] Promoting a dialogue between the different population groups in Latvia, above all between Latvians and Russians, with the help of the CSCE, was one of the issues discussed when Margaretha Af Ugglas today met Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs. Sweden is currently chairman of the CSCE and it is for that reason, among others, that Margaretha Af Ugglas is visiting Riga. One purpose is to probe the prospects of a CSCE presence here. After her talks with the Latvian foreign minister, she said that both of them were agreed about the value of such a presence in contributing toward a stable political development in Latvia, not least toward a dialogue between Russians and Latvians.

As is known, the Russians are a very large minority here. The Latvians constitute just over 50 percent of the population, and the Latvian Government is concerned that there shall be no strong tensions between the two population groups, as has happened in Estonia where the CSCE is already operating. The same charged situation is not prevailing here as in Estonia. National tensions are not at all equally prominent in Latvia, and Margaretha Af Ugglas stressed that a CSCE presence here must be shaped after the Latvians' needs. What it is going to look like, and what mandate it will have is something that will have to be discussed further with the Latvians, and within the CSCE.

Another issue in today's talks was the Russian troop withdrawal. There is now a deadlock, both in the talks between Russia and Latvia, and in the actual withdrawal itself, which has come to a halt for the time being. Russia does not seem to want to fulfill its promise to withdraw all troops by the end of this year. That is one matter that Margaretha Af Ugglas and Prime Minister Carl Bildt will raise once more with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev when he arrives in Stockholm on Saturday [14 August].

Shipping Company Denies Ownership of Tanker in Collision

LD1108161693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The press service of the Latvian Shipping Company states that information circulated by the BNS news agency yesterday about a collision between a Latvian tanker and Swedish vessel is erroneous. The collision off the Swedish coast has indeed happened, but the tanker does not belong to the Latvian Shipping Company.

Gorbunovs Denies Plans To Abandon Latvian Way Alliance

WS1108120393 Tallinn BNS in English 1705 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] RIGA, Aug 10, BNS—Latvian Saeima Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs denied allegations Tuesday [10 August] that he plans to abandon the election alliance the Latvian Way.

Gorbunovs blamed the Saeima press service for spreading inaccurate information about his meeting with Australian Ambassador John Robson Burgess. The service quoted Gorbunovs as saying that he wanted to leave the Latvian Way because he was unable to combine Saeima chairman duties with his work in the alliance.

"If the Saeima adopts a decision that the Saeima chairman and his deputies have to suspend their party activities, I will do so," said Gorbunovs.

Otherwise, Gorbunovs says he won't break the ties with the Latvian Way and will remain committed to fulfilling the expectations of his voters.

Finance Minister: Unified Tariff System To Be Implemented

WS1108120693 Tallinn BNS in English 1705 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] RIGA, Aug 10, BNS—Latvia will establish a more unified customs tariff system beginning next year, said Finance Minister Uldis Osis.

Within the framework of this project, the country will lower customs tariffs on imported goods. The tariffs council has already passed a decision to scrap duties on components and spare parts that are brought into Latvia.

In Osis view, the move will do a disservice to the Latvian economy. Just a couple of years ago Latvia's car and electronics industry was well developed, he said, but currently, these factories produce only 30 percent to 40 percent of their capacity. As a result more and more employees lose their skills and their jobs, he said.

But on the whole, he said, the customs legislation is designed to encourage development in domestic market by protecting the interests of producers and consumers.

Bank of Latvia President on Strength of Lats

LD1108180793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The lats is at present a convertible, stable currency, with a 100 percent hard currency payment [or "covering", as heard; vern. "cieto valutu segums"] the Saeima Commission on Budget and Finance was informed today by the President of the Bank of Latvia, Einars Repse. As Repse said, the rate for the lats at the Bank of Latvia will no longer be increased because a considerable upturn in industry must be awaited.

Government Unable To Control Illegal Near Eastern Aliens

WS1108145293 Tallinn BNS in English 1328 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] RIGA, Aug 11, BNS—Latvian immigration experts admitted today that the country simply cannot control the flood of Near Eastern citizens entering the country.

The Near Eastern immigrants enter the country with fake European documents, said Citizenship Department expert Ieva Mizane. Many times they are detained at the Riga airport, he said, but they continue to live in Latvia without any control from the authorities.

Latvian authorities have yet to work out a concrete statute to deport illegal immigrants. Most are detained prior to boarding planes bound for Scandinavia.

Mizane acknowledged that the Near East citizens who arrive in Latvia are well-informed on the easiest ways to cross the Latvian border. Since the Latvian border is quite leaky and poorly guarded, he said, refugees aren't the only ones who may sneak into the country. Mizane pointed to the threat of terrorists, drug traffickers and arms smugglers. Currently, the easiest way to come to Latvia illegally is by rail, said Mizane.

In keeping with the Latvian government's decision on issuing visas and controlling persons who cross the Latvian border, the Latvian transport ministry plans to prepare a plan to help authorities maintain control over the flow of illegal immigrants, said Mizane.

At present the ministry has ignored the government's ruling and has refused to tackle the issue.

Lithuania

Russians Draft Decree on Suspension of Army Withdrawal

LD1108200093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Russian Defense Ministry has compiled a draft decree on suspension of the Russian army pullout from Lithuania. The Russian military intend to halt troop withdrawal due to last week's failure to sign the bilateral treaty on the Russian army pullout.

This was announced by Commander in Chief of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, Lithuanian special envoy for the Russian army pullout, Colonel Stasys Knezys, at a meeting dedicated to events marking the completion of the Russian army pullout.

According to the special envoy, the mentioned document has not yet been signed into force because Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is on holiday. However, speaking to the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper, Mr. Knezys expressed a conviction that the Russian defense minister would not sign the decree. [passage omitted]

Envoy to U.S. Urges End To Protests Over Recall

LD1108222493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Stasys Lozoraitis, the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States, has asked that all protest actions linked with his recall from his post in Washington be stopped.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas recalled Stasys Lozoraitis from the post of U.S. ambassador on 6 May of this year, explaining this by the insufficiently active work of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington and the poor relations of the diplomat with the president's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vilnius.

At present, Stasys Lozoraitis continues discharging his duties in Washington until a new ambassador is appointed.

The recall of Stasys Lozoraitis, the only opponent of Algirdas Brazauskas in this year's presidential elections, has provoked a significant wave of protest both in Lithuania and among Lithuanian emigres abroad. [passage omitted]

Stasys Lozoraitis in a letter made public today asks that any actions that may disturb the solemnity and dignity of the pope's visit be stopped. Lozoraitis' letter says: I do not ask people to give up their convictions, but demonstrations must stop in order to show that we are able to put state, nation, and church interests above all.

Declaration on 'Interwar' Relations With Poland Drafted

AU1208112093 Warsaw PAP in English 1803 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Vilnius, Aug. 11—A draft declaration concerning Polish-Lithuanian relations in the interwar period, which is to be signed simultaneously with the Polish-Lithuanian treaty, has been referred by the Lithuanian Government to the Polish Foreign Ministry.

Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Vladislavas Domarkas, heading a delegation to the first round of talks on the treaty, said today that the controversial issue of interwar Polish-Lithuanian relations was transferred from the treaty to the declaration. He also confirmed earlier reports of the Lithuanian mass media that the Lithuanian side will consult the issue with a Western expert, a representative of the Danish Helsinki committee.

Domarkas said that the assessment of Polish-Lithuanian relations in the interwar period was not only historical question but it also had a legal aspect. He observed that Vilnius and the Vilnius region was and is part of Lithuania and claims to the property by some Polish organizations are controversial since it was acquired as a result of aggression (in 1920, General Lucjan Zeligowski seized Vilnius following orders from Poland's interwar leader Jozef Pilsudski).

Asked what guarantees Lithuania needs to finally believe that Poland has no claims to Vilnius or Vilnius region, Domarkas admitted that the Polish officials gave such guarantees. He regretted, however, that some unofficial representatives of Poland were trying to prove that Vilnius became the Lithuanian capital as a consequence of the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Treaty of 1939.

Domarkas expressed conviction that Lithuania and Poland will succeed in formulating the controversial issues in a way acceptable for both sides and that the treaty and the declaration would be signed this month.